Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

AFP Cited on Appeals Court Repatriation Ruling

FL0411183894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Nov 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An AFP dispatch reports that the United States will restart the repatriation of refugees held in Guantanamo and Panama camps today following an appeals court decision overturning a ruling demanding the end of the repatriation operation. The federal court sided with the U.S. Government request blocked earlier in the week by a district judge who ruled that the repatriation of Cuban refugees had to be suspended until consultation with lawyers was made available. The ruling pertained to refugees intercepted at sea, who, according to the U.S. Government, do not enjoy the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and immigration laws.

Alarcon: Migration 'Oldest Issue' in U.S. Conflict

FL0411193694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Nov 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a few minutes the meeting on migration promoted by the Foreign Relations Commission, and the Constitutional and Judicial Affairs Commission of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] will resume in the Convention Center.

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the ANPP, stressed that migration is neither a current nor an isolated issue, but a historic and universal phenomenon which has always been part of Cuban reality. He added that migration is the oldest issue in the conflict between Cuba and the United States, which dates back to even before measures implemented by the emerging Revolutionary Government.

Alarcon stated that the obvious manipulation of the migration topic by successive U.S. Governments since 1 January 1959, turned it into a weapon against the revolution, thus politicizing a universal and also a natural phenomenon. He also opposed separating the migration issue from the conflict between Cuba and the United States, which was supported by some of the researchers during the public meeting.

Yesterday's session was highlighted by multiple views on the more pressing aspects of the topic, confirming the complex and controversial nature of the migration issue, particularly in recent times. Jesus Arboleyo, of the Center of Studies on Security Affairs stated:

[Begin Arboleyo recording] I agree with comrades who express concern about how we often try to justify the migration problem. I believe that the problem will not be solved by simplifying it, or by saying that the migration flow has essentially economic reasons. [end recording]

Regarding the current change on the composition of the migrating sector, Luis Suarez, of the American Studies Center, stressed its causes, and possible effects:

[Begin Suarez recording] We are looking at this last migration wave without realizing that the migration pattern is changing, and that those leaving now are not what we used to regard as scum [escoria]. Currently, new migration trends are taking place which could have a negative effect on our society if people in whom the Revolution has invested many years of training were to leave. Hence, this will and should compel us to look further into the causes of the Cuban migration, which I do not believe are limited to the conditions of the special period. We need to detect other possible causes of this migration trend, and instead of simply laying the blame for this flow on the economy, we need to discuss other reasons in depth. [end recording]

Official Sees Trend Toward Normalization in Migration

FL0411174794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1245 GMT 3 Nov 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have for you another of yesterday's depositions at the hearings held by the Foreign Relations Commission and the Constitutional and Judicial Affairs Commission of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

The following is by Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa, president of the Constitutional and Judicial Affairs Commission:

[Begin Ochoa recording] I believe that if we were to poll the people here—all those who understand this issue, if not all, the majority would agree that we have to change the migration laws. This is not news. I am among those who believe that once there is normalization in the migration policy of the Cuban state, we need to change the laws, and to write new migration laws. As long as the situation is somewhat abnormal, my opinion is that it does not pay to get involved in drafting new immigration laws.

I agree with what several comrades have said here, including Comrade Alarcon, that with regard to migration there has been a trend toward normalization but relations are not normal yet. I believe that the September accords are an important step toward that normalization. However, these accords have to be implemented. This is so particularly following these judicial decisions about which I am not going to comment now, but which will undoubtedly be a small obstacle toward that normalization or the implementation of the September accords. The accords have to be consolidated in order for us to see that there is a normalization of migration relations between Cuba and the United States.

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Migration between Cuba and the United States, by the way, are not the only migration relations. A couple of days ago I read a news dispatch about a woman, the daughter of a famous Cuban composer, who went abroad and in order to get residency papers asked for political asylum. I am almost sure, perhaps I am wrong, that this is what happened. That woman was never ever politically persecuted. Yet, obviously, in order to ensure her residency in that country, she said she was politically persecuted and was thus given political asylum. We have to keep in mind that normalization is a two-way street. It is not enough for Cuba to be willing to normalize its migration relations but also the country receiving Cubans must be willing to treat them normally.

I believe that if the September accords are consolidated and implemented as expected, they will undoubtedly become an important aspect of that normalization, but as long as migration relations are not normalized, I believe we should not get involved in drafting new laws. [end recording]

Failure To Comply With Russian Oil Deal Denied

PA0411130294 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2223 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 3 Nov (PL)—Cuba has used sugar to pay in full for absolutely all of the petroleum it has received from Russia as part of the December 1993 bilateral agreement in this sector, a Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry (Mincex) official told PRENSA LATINA today.

Mincex Trade Policy Director Felix Loaces said reports claiming that either Havana or Moscow failed to comply with the terms of the bilateral petroleum-sugar accord at any time during the first phase of the accord's implementation are baseless and nonsensical, and he assured that companies from both nations that are participating in this exchange are satisfied with the agreement's implementation.

Loaces explained that the protocol signed on 24 December 1993 was not ratified until the end of March 1994 because of internal problems in Russia, and the agreement was subsequently implemented in May. In turn, Cuba received 1.5 million tons of crude between May and July.

Cuba complied with and honored all of its commitments throughout the first stage of the agreement, Loaces stressed, indicating that between May and August the island used sugar to pay in full for the fuel obtained up to that point.

In the Mincex foreign trade policy director's opinion, the first phase of this barter deal ended "fully balanced without any debt in any areas of operation"; the second part of the accord is currently being negotiated.

According to international norms governing such agreements, Cuba wants Russia to deliver the rest of the petroleum before the end of 1994 before turning over the amount of sugar agreed upon, Loaces noted.

According to the 1993 agreements, Russia is supposed to supply Cuba with 2.5 million tons of petroleum this year. In exchange, Cuba will send 1 million tons of sugar to Russia.

Felix Loaces informed PRENSA LATINA that several officials from Russian companies that have participated in the deal are currently visiting Cuba to finalize technical aspects of the operations, and he added that these officials are pleased with the results of the first phase of the agreement.

The Mincex trade policy director assured that Cuba remains in a position to honor all of its commitments with Russia in the exchange of these products, just as it has done up until now.

Oleg Davydov, Russia's minister of foreign economic relations, recently announced the suspension of the petroleum-sugar agreement with Cuba, accusing the island of noncompliance by allegedly diverting sugar shipments to sell them to third-party nations.

Continued Oil Shipments Reported

PA0411235294 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2047 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—The Russian Government today instructed the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry to ensure compliance with the intergovernmental agreement with Cuba on the exchange of oil for sugar.

Cuban Ambassador to Russia Rogelio Montenegro was informed of the decision, which dismissed a statement by Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov on a possible rupture of the bilateral agreement for reciprocal shipments during 1994, signed in December 1993.

Based on the intergovernmental agreement, Moscow will send to Cuba 2.5 million tonnes of oil in exchange for 1 million tonnes of sugar.

The federal cabinet decided to accept the proposal made by interested parties in Cuba to deliver part of the sugar in December and January.

Both countries complied with the first phase of the pact with the delivery of 1.5 tonnes of oil by Moscow in exchange for Havana supplying almost 500,000 tonnes of sugar.

According to the government's decision, Russia will send the remaining 1 million tonnes of oil to Cuba before the end of 1994.

Cuba regarded the statement about noncompliance with the agreement as groundless and senseless and stressed that the enterprises in both countries were satisfied with the operations.

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Havana refuted Davydov's statement about an alleged delay in the payment for Russian oil delivered to Cuba and the diversion of sugar shipments to third countries, arguments used by the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry to announce the rupture of the intergovernmental agreement.

In that regard, Felix Loaces, director of commercial policy of the Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry, assured yesterday that his country has paid with sugar all the oil received through the agreement between the two countries.

Bank President on Possibility of Convertible Peso

PA0711042894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0028 GMT 7 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the National Bank of Cuba (BNC), has said that Cuban financial officials are studying the establishment of a convertible Cuban peso so it can become "the island's standard currency for all national and international transactions."

Rodriguez Llompart made this statement in a long interview published in the current issue of the economic weekly OPCIONES.

The Cuban peso is currently not convertible. The official exchange rate is one dollar per peso, but this is not actually put into practice.

"The convertible peso, if introduced, will be established by law and will have absolute financial support with its foreign exchange equivalents entirely guaranteed, and its exchange and reexchange guaranteed at the time required or chosen by the bearer," Rodriguez Llompart emphasized.

"It will circulate with the currently authorized foreign currencies without any sort of interference with them, and its exchange will not be obligatory," Rodriguez Llompart added.

"This means, he added, that the liberalization established regarding the ownership of convertible foreign currency will prevail."

The minister pointed out that the creation of the convertible Cuban peso also seeks to "establish a currency that constitutes a symbol of our sovereignty and that will make up for the lack of a national convertible currency."

Another objective is "to provide a solution to several practical and technical aspects of sales and purchases conducted in the country in foreign currency," he said.

Rodriguez Llompart noted that from 1982 to 1985, Cuba renegotiated its foreign debt annually in convertible currency with the Group of Governments of Creditor Countries of the Paris Club, and it did so until 1985 with the Advisory Committee of Creditor Banks, "justifying each year the reasons that made a renegotiation of the country's financial obligations necessary."

"In July 1986, the last agreement on the renegotiation with governmental creditors was signed, but financing was left pending discussion with the creditor banks, with whom an agreement was not reached," he recalled.

"The demand for payment of Cuba's debt without providing, as compensation, necessary financing for the country prevented the parties from reaching an agreement," Rodriguez Llompart stressed.

He stated that beginning in 1990, and gaining strength in 1993 and 1994—due to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the European socialist nations—"the situation of liquidity in convertible currency became increasingly serious. The country had already been facing a difficult situation due to the tightening of the U.S. blockade and the lack of financing."

In another part of the interview, Rodriguez Llompart maintained that the BNC has not had any formal official contacts with the World Bank or the IMF.

He added that specifically with the IMF "some informal contacts—rather informative—have been held, at that organization's request, on aspects of interest to it.

"We have no objection to continuing these types of exchanges because it can lead to mutual technical and professional benefits without other repercussions," he noted.

Banks such as the "Netherlands Caribbean Bank," N.V. of Curacao, Netherlands Antilles; the Dutch bank ING; and the Havana International Bank, Ltd., whose headquarters are located in London (Great Britain), currently have offices in Cuba.

"In addition, major Arab and European banks have submitted their requests to establish branches in Cuba. These requests are currently being processed," he emphasized.

"Business prospects with Cuba and the benefits it offers to foreign investors are incentives for foreign banks to become interested in establishing or increasing relations with the members of the national banking system and in opening branches in our country," Rodriguez Llompart explained.

He pointed out that the BNC has 500 branches worldwide, which enables it to conduct banking operations with any region of the world, with the particular exception of the United States.

This is due to the limitations imposed by the blockade against Cuba, which "only allows a reduced number of banking operations authorized by the Treasury Department," he stated.

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Parliament Urges U.S. Congress To Study Blockade

PA0511022394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0127 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 4 Nov (PL)—The Cuban parliament and its Foreign Relations Committee on 4 November urged members of the U.S. Congress to study the blockade that the United States has maintained against Cuba for more than 30 years, it was revealed here.

A note issued by the National Assembly, obtained by PRENSA LATINA, indicates that this body urged U.S. congressmen to analyze this unjust measure not only because it is rejected by the international community, but because maintaining the blockade undermines the legitimate interests of the nation and of Cuban emigres, especially those residing in the United States.

It thanked the 101 governments from all continents "that openly and categorically voted in favor of the resolution," approved on 26 October by the UN General Assembly, against Washington's economic seige.

After pointing out that the blockade is one of the worst human rights violations committed this century against an entire people, the document recognized the position adopted by parliaments all over the world that are demanding an end to this measure.

It recalled that for the third year in a row an immense majority of nations reaffirmed at the UN Security Council the need to lift this punitive measure.

In this regard, the document made reference to the extraterritorial scope of the U.S. blockade "that undermines the principles of sovereign equality among states, non-intervention, non-meddling in the domestic affairs of other nations, and freedom of international commerce and navigation."

It also noted, with justified joy, that in the historic vote of the resolution against the blockade, only one country (Israel), out of 184 UN members, accompanied the United States "in the indecorous position of supporting the illegal and immoral blockade against Cuba."

Iraqi Official Visits, Backs Vote Against Blockade

FL0511160394 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Nov 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Duri, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, met several leaders during his visit to Cuba, including: Jose Ramon Fernandez, Council of Ministers vice president; Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas; Ernesto Melendez, foreign investment and economic cooperation minister; and Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. He and Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Benigno Perez signed a cooperation agreement between the Iraqi and Cuban Foreign Ministries.

[Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish at 1501 GMT on 5 November adds: "Regarding Iraq's third consecutive vote at the United Nations against the U.S. blockade of Cuba, 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Duri said that it was not a new position but a confirmation of his nation's support for Cuba."]

Cooperation Accord With Iraq Signed

PA0617040194 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0301 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 4 Nov (P)—During an official visit by 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Duri, under secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, Cuba and Iraq signed an agreement for cooperation between the two countries' Foreign Ministries, it was reported in Havana today.

The document was signed by 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Duri and Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Benigno Perez, the national television newscast reported tonight.

The Iraqi visitor, who arrived in Havana at the head of a delegation, spoke with several Cuban leaders, including Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas, and Ernesto Melendez, minister of the State Committee for Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation.

In addition to talking with Cuban officials in economic and commercial sectors, 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Duri, who was invited by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, will visit places of economic, historic, and touristic interest.

Colombian Foreign Minister Visits, Signs Accords

Comments on U.S. Blockade

FL0411154094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Nov 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo Garcia-Pena held a news conference moments ago after an official meeting with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina at the foreign ministry. An issue repeatedly broached by the correspondents was the upcoming Miami summit and the possibility that Colombia would put on the table the issue of the U.S. blockade of Cuba. The summit has been organized by the United States and will take place in December. This was Pardo's response:

[Begin Pardo recording] That issue is something that we are not going to put on the table. We think that the summit is not a good place to talk about the Cuban issue because, among other reasons, Cuba is not going to be present. Colombia's position on the blockade is not

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related to the Miami summit. However, our position is critical. We are against that policy because of its unilateral character. We oppose the blockade for reasons of principle. We do not agree with measures that affect the way people live, especially, when this attitude has been adopted unilaterally. [end recording]

During the news conference, Pardo announced that an accord had been signed suspending the need for visas on diplomatic and official passports and another document signed referring to Cuba and Colombia's diplomatic academies. He also announced the signing of an accord providing for the exchange of information between the two countries in the judicial sector.

More Comments on U.S. Blockade

PA0511193094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2005 GMT 4 Nov 94

[By Javier Rodriguez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 4 Nov (PL)—Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo said today the U.S. commercial and economic blockade against Cuba is unacceptable in principle.

In an interview granted to PRENSA LATINA in this capital, Pardo stressed the great importance of a recent UN General Assembly resolution on this issue that was approved by an ample vote in support of a position Colombia fully shares.

Regarding the U.S. blockade, he said unilateral measures of this type only deteriorate the living conditions of the people.

The foreign minister advocates the use of dialogue to settle the conflict between Cuba and the United States, and he recalled his country recently congratulated Washington and Havana for the migration agreement signed by the two governments and for the lessening of tension around this delicate issue.

We have always maintained that the peaceful solution of conflicts is possible, desirable, and must be sought, he said.

Pardo stressed the great progress achieved in the bilateral Cuban-Colombian relations and said this progress should lead to increased investments in the near future.

He said a business mission of that South American nation will visit Havana during the first trimester of 1995 to identify possible investments in economic sectors of the Antillean island.

The president of the Colombian Sugar Growers Association, who is a member of the delegation headed by Foreign Minister Pardo, is making a head start by analyzing possible investments in that sector with local industrialists.

We have advanced in commerce, in improving understanding between the two governments, and in the rapprochement among university centers, but the most promising possibilities in the future are based on political dialogue, which has been taking place, to increase commerce and investments, he added.

The foreign minister said Latin American and Caribbean integration is a priority of Colombia, because it is the only way to face a difficult world characterized by commercial wars and differences in the North-South relationship.

He defined this priority as a matter of principle, because Latin Americans and Caribbeans share a similar past besides language and common ties and must truly reflect their set of values.

The minister analyzed the fact, during his conversation with PRENSA LATINA, that Colombia will assume the presidency of the Nonaligned Movement.

The main task of the Nonaligned Movement is to strengthen the capability of countries of the South to negotiate, because only through unity will they be able to establish cooperation with the North to resolve major economic, commercial, and social issues, including peace and drug trafficking, Pardo said.

As for the OAS, he said this regional forum lost credibility when it failed to address the issues affecting Latin American countries, and thus it reflected an operational incapability and lack of efficiency and was affected by bureaucratic practices.

The first thing it must do is to do something about this matter, to redefine itself from an institutional standpoint, and become more operational and efficient, and I believe former President Cesar Gaviria has an opportunity to modernize the organization, and Colombia will support this effort, he said.

Colombia will participate in the hemispheric summit in Miami summoned for December by President William Clinton, and it has already defined the specific points it will present at that meeting.

Pardo added we believe there is a need to integrate, to establish order, and to unify subregional free trade agreements achieved in past years so as to find ways to conduct trade, because many exporters of Colombia and other countries are having difficulties in reaching the U.S.market.

There is also the issue of drug trafficking. We will propose a continental initiative against money laundering, an activity which nourishes drug addiction despite efforts that could be made against consumption and production, he said.

Pardo described the problem of drug trafficking as multinational and underscored the impossibility of

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advancing in its elimination as long as there are high levels of consumption in the United States and other countries.

Finally, Pardo said the main foreign policy goal of the new Colombian Government will be to promote international action to make feasible the domestic model proposed by President Ernesto Samper of achieving better living conditions for his people.

Comments on Bilateral Relations

PA0411171994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0140 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 3 Nov (PL)—Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo today described relations between his country and Cuba as dynamic and profound, and he announced several economic, academic, and commercial cooperation agreements are being signed during his official visit to the island.

At a news conference held at the Foreign Ministry, Pardo stressed that Cuba and Colombia have no restrictions whatsoever—political, diplomatic, or governmental—on the marketing of any product in the oil industry or any other field.

Opportunities exist to increase commercial and economic ties with Cuba, Pardo said, and he added that his initial talks with his Cuban counterpart, Roberto Robaina, were designed to secure and promote more intensive bilateral relations, the current state of which he defined as being very dynamic.

In calling for more fruitful ties with Cuba, Pardo said he will sign an agreement to eliminate visas for diplomatic and official passports of both countries.

He added that another cooperation agreement will be signed between the diplomatic academies of both nations to permit the development of exchange programs between professors and students, as well as the exchange of knowledge via seminars. He also announced that an agreement on the transfer of information on penal matters is being reviewed.

To make this last agreement possible, a technical commission comprising members of the two justice ministries will meet to decide on the best means of defining and implementing mechanisms in this area, he explained.

A cultural agreement which will develop an already existing treaty in the field is also among the agreements to be signed to coordinate conferences, fairs, and other artistic activities.

In view of both governments' concern over international crime, cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking will be strengthened and the pact signed in 1991 will be revised, Pardo said.

Asked whether Colombian businessmen are interested in investing in the Cuban sugar industry following this sector's opening to foreign capital, Pardo noted he is accompanied by the president of Colombia's Association of Sugar Producers, who has been in contact with Cuban officials working in this field.

He also proposed sending to the island a delegation of businessmen interested in investing in various areas, which he said was already obvious at the Seventh Havana Fair.

Says No Restrictions on Bilateral Trade

PA0611005694 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Nov 94

[Report by Barbara Betancourt; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Havana, the Cuban and Colombian foreign ministers signed important agreements to increase cooperation in terms of diplomatic exchange and culture. The ministers also created working groups to prepare an agreement on the exchange of legal information to deal with international crime. Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo told the media of his satisfaction with the agreements signed with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and said there are other areas where the two countries can improve ties. He added that the countries have not yet reached their full potential for improved economic and commercial relations. During a meeting with the media, Pardo also mentioned Colombia's willingness to sell oil to Cuba.

[Begin Pardo recording] Colombia and Cuba have no restrictions—political, diplomatic, or any other kind—on trade with one another of any type of product. That goes for crude oil or any other good. Whether transactions are made depends on commercial agreements reached by enterprises or businessmen who buy or sell certain products. In the case of crude oil, there have been some commercial disagreements among enterprises, a fact that has precluded sales. [end recording]

Speaking about the region, Pardo said he has confidence in the future of the Association of Caribbean States and the area's economic potential and ample possibilities for integration. He also said that now that a free trade agreement has been signed by Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia, the Group of Three, they will take action in other areas such as the environment and the development of transportation, tourism, investment, and so forth. Remaining within the hemispheric context, Pardo referred to the coming Summit of the Americas called by the U.S. President to be held in December.

[Begin Pardo recording] We believe it is worthwhile to consider the role played by the Summit of the Americas in the new international context and the way we should relate to one another now that some of the ties that have served as the basis for our relationship in the past 40 or 45 years have been revised. For that reason, and despite

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certain circumstances, we will proceed constructively. Colombia will place particular emphasis on the subjects that you mentioned, trade and drug trafficking, matters for which Colombia has some specific proposals. Realistically speaking, we cannot expect a meeting—although it convenes a large number of presidents of the continent—to resolve problems that have accumulated for many years. More realistically—and I reiterate—I think we can expect to have parameters for working after the Summit and into the future instead for the time leading up to the Summit. [end recording]

Pardo also mentioned the objective that his country has in mind for when it will assume the Nonaligned Movement presidency next year.

[Begin Pardo recording] First of all, we believe that the Movement's efforts in the past three years under Indonesia's presidency have been fruitful and useful in giving the Movement a role in accordance with the new reality. We have consulted and talked with many member countries and found that they agree on the need to continue the work Indonesia began. We believe the new realities of international policy make nonalignment fully relevant. This is a new and modern (?concept). The fact that changes in East-West relations have not been accompanied by similar changes in North-South relations make the Nonaligned Movement's existence as important as it has been for the past 40 years. [end recording]

Pardo has been in Cuba since Wednesday and will participate in the inauguration of the University of Havana's Colombian Studies School on Saturday. He will return to his country shortly after midnight on that same day.

Remarks on Meeting With Castro

PA0611002094 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1402 GMT 5 Nov 94

[Report on interview with Colombian Foreign Relations Minister Rodrigo Pardo by Barbara Betancourt at the Colombian Embassy in Havana on 4 November; from the "Morning Information Review" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the evening of 4 November, Cuban President Fidel Castro attended a reception at the Colombian Embassy in Havana in honor of Colombian Foreign Relations Minister Rodrigo Pardo, who has been visiting the island since 3 November. The Cuban leader and the Colombian visitor met for approximately three hours. When Pardo emerged from the meeting, he had this to say to Radio Havana Cuba:

[Begin recording] [Pardo] The meeting was pleasant and fruitful. We had the opportunity to exchange views on many issues, such as bilateral relations. We agreed that these are good times for improving relations by implementing the mechanisms he have been fine-tuning since last year, when we signed a number of agreements. As for the future, we will undoubtedly increase exchanges of goods and investments. In general terms, these activities will bring Colombia and Cuba closer together.

[Betancourt] Pardo, Cuban-Colombian relations were reborn amid excellent health conditions. Do you foresee even better health conditions?

[Pardo] I think so. Our relations went through an informal, yet fruitful period. We now maintain formal and more fruitful relations. I am sure our relations will be even more fruitful from now on. We have many things to do, and we are pleased with what we have done so far, but we still have a great deal to do. It seems we have moved in the right direction over the last few years, and we want to advance even much more in this direction.

[Betancourt] I do not want to be indiscreet, but I heard that you and Castro spoke about the Nonaligned Movement. At the news conference, I asked you about this movement. Do you have any advice for [words indistinct]?

[Pardo] Of course. We have experience organizing summits. There are valid views on the viability of the Movement and its current validity. I have been gathering opinions and on the Movement and what it could become. Cuba is a member of the Movement, and its views indeed interest us. After all, Colombia's presence gives the Movement a Latin American bearing once again. Colombia was absent for many years and has now joined the Movement for the second time since it began 40 years ago.

[Betancourt] Did you bring any message from President Ernesto Samper to President Castro?

[Pardo] Yes, it is a message of friendship and solidarity, a message stressing the ties that unite our two countries.

[Betancourt] Are you pleased?

[Pardo] I am please, and I will be more pleased if all our programs and plans become a reality.

[Betancourt] I think Cuba will be pleased as well. Thank you very much.

[Pardo] Thank you. [end recording]

Outlines Foreign Policy

PA0611163694 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1854 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 5 Nov (PL)—Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo pronounced here today the principles of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other states, international cooperation, and integration as the basic principles of his country's foreign policy.

At the inauguration of the Department of Colombian Studies at the 200-year-old University of Havana in this

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capital, Pardo stressed the importance of international cooperation so as to guarantee socioeconomic development.

The department was created during the inauguration of the first meeting of Cuban and Colombian university rectors, in which a delegation of 15 Colombian rectors, four vice rectors, two university presidents, and higher education experts are participating, along with a representation of their Cuban counterparts.

Pardo defended the peoples' right to self-determination and stressed the need for international cooperation in a world that has left the strategy of the Cold War behind.

That cooperation should be viewed as an alternative to a number of problems that project themselves beyond the national borders, such as drug trafficking, environmental protection, and the liberalization of trade, he said.

He added his country defends integration as the means of overcoming social problems related to poverty, health, and other aspects essential for social development.

Colombia is pleased with the progress made by certain Latin American integrationist blocs, such as Mercosur [Common Market of the South], the Andean Pact, the Group of Three, and Caricom [Caribbean Common Market], among others. Pardo said we must lay the foundations for free trade and economic cooperation during these years marking the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century.

Regarding the Nonaligned Movement, Pardo said this movement is an instrument to make the foreign policy objectives of the member countries more effective and to coordinate their actions in order to strengthen their negotiating capacity.

Pardo demanded a more just international economic order in which the markets of industrialized countries are open to products from developing nations and in which trade is liberalized.

Regarding the United Nations, Pardo favored the democratization of its institutions and the creation of more opportunities for Latin American countries.

On Colombia's foreign policy toward Cuba, Pardo said it is based on a policy and principles promoting cooperation and integration within the Latin American context.

More on Visit

FL0611201794 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Nov 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colombian and Cuban Foreign Ministers Rodrigo Pardo and Roberto Robaina tonight signed agreements on eliminating the need for visas for those holding diplomatic and official passports, promoting exchanges between Cuban and Colombian diplomatic academies [academias diplomaticas], and developing a full cultural program. The final document outlining the results of Pardo's visit to Cuba was also signed. Pardo met Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, and Carlos Lage, vice president of the Council of State, this afternoon. Pardo visited the Carlos Finlay Institute, located in the scientific hub west of Havana City, early this morning. Institute Director Concepcion Campa briefed Pardo on the institute and scientific successes in producing vaccines. The Colombian delegation later traveled to ExpoCuba and toured pavilions at the 12th Havana International Fair. Pardo showed interest in Cuban products and signed a contract between Cuba's Cuba Azucar and Techno Azucar enterprises and Colombia's Santana Trading Association that calls for opening a Cuban rum factory in Barranquilla. Pardo participated in ceremonies honoring Francisco Garcia, director of Cuba's (Marprinter) enterprise, as the new president of the Cuban-Colombian businessmen's commission. Pardo said that the visit to the fair was very positive:

[Begin Pardo recording] I am very impressed that so many countries are participating. I visited the Cuban pavilion and was thoroughly impressed with the quality and number of available products. I am very happy to see that relations between Colombian businessmen and Cuba's production sector are very intense. [end recording]

Minister's Visit Recapped

FL0711001094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Nov 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro met Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo and his delegation and Colombian Ambassador to Cuba Ricardo Santamaria during a reception held in honor of the visitors on 4 November.

Pardo said after informally meeting Castro that he is very pleased with the results of his visit to Cuba, during which he expanded ever-growing ties between the two nations and signed important agreements. Castro discussed different topics with members of the Colombian delegation, which includes scholars, scientists, businessmen, and government officials.

Pardo signed a protocol whereby the Cuban and Colombian Foreign Ministries agree to expedite procedures to issue diplomatic visas and to exchange information and other types of transfers. He also signed a cultural exchange agreement and laid the groundwork for future accords on judicial and penal issues.

Pardo inaugurated the Colombian Studies Department at 200-year-old Havana University on 5 November.

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Pardo met Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and toured places of economic and historic interest during his stay in Havana. Pardo will return to Colombia on 6 November, following a productive visit to Cuba.

The first meeting of university presidents from Cuba and Colombia attended the inauguration of the Colombian Studies Department on the morning of 5 November, in Havana University's ceremonial hall. Pardo delivered the opening address and was later interviewed by reporter Carmen Oria:

[Begin recording] [Oria] How do you feel on this, the inauguration of the Colombian Studies Department? This has brought presidents of Cuban and Colombian universities together for the first time.

[Pardo] I am very optimistic. Colombia and Cuba are friends. The two countries face similar realities and identify with one another on many issues, proving that relations between the two peoples are mature. This meeting of university presidents should be followed by meetings of students, workers, athletes, businessmen, and people from all sectors. We face the challenge of building a bond based not only on the good relations of the governments but also on further knowledge of the peoples of both countries. The new department and the meeting of university presidents will greatly help achieve this goal, because academic activities are a vehicle for sharing knowledge. This is an initial step toward a greater friendship.

[Oria] Officials involved in Antioquia University's From Country to Country Program recently visited. Do you believe that this was the first step in the academic relationship between Cuba and Colombia?

[Pardo] Yes, I believe so. The academic community's response is truly positive. I can assure you that it would be extremely difficult to bring together so many Colombian deans in any other country. [end recording]

[Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish at 2033 GMT on 6 November reports: "AIN reports that Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo Garcia-Pena and his delegation returned to Colombia today after a brief but productive official visit to Cuba. Pardo was accompanied to Jose Marti International Airport by Roberto Robaina, who wished him luck and great success in fulfilling arrangements initiated by Colombian diplomacy. Pardo told correspondents that his visit to Cuba was very positive and that he had accomplished all of his planned objectives. He said bilateral relations were discussed and assessed and that they are very secure and mutually advantageous."]

Castro Attends Reception

PA0511132694 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0331 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 4 Nov (PL)—President Fidel Castro attended a reception today offered by the Colombian Embassy in honor of Rodrigo Pardo, the foreign minister of that South American nation who is on an official visit to Cuba.

The Cuban president held conversations with the illustrious visitor and Ricardo Santamaria, Colombia's ambassador to Cuba, during the event.

Vice President Carlos Lage, ministers, and other high-ranking officials as well as personalities of the art and culture world also attended the reception.

Pardo has been in Cuba since 2 November and will return to his country on 6 November after having fulfilled a tight program that includes official talks with his Cuban colleague, Roberto Robaina, visits to centers of economic and historical interests, and the inauguration of a Colombian studies division at the 200-year-old University of Havana.

Cooperation Accords Signed With Colombia

PA0511192794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0038 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 4 Nov (PL)—Cuba and Colombia signed several cooperation agreements today. This has been one of the results of Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo's visit to the island.

Pardo and his Cuban counterpart, Roberto Robaina, signed the documents eliminating visas for officials who have diplomatic and official passports to travel to both countries.

They also validated an academic cooperation agreement between Cuban and Colombian diplomatic institutes and another one that expedites cultural and artistic exchange.

They also signed a document on Pardo's visit to the island, which started 2 November and will end tomorrow, when he returns to Santa Fe de Bogota.

Robaina highlighted in brief words their will to quickly advance their bilateral cooperation, and he said the implementation of the new agreements is just the first part of a broad joint program to be developed in the future.

The Colombian foreign minister called the ceremony another step in the right direction to reflect the people's daily living in the dynamic development of bilateral relations. This indicates that the ties are not only good but very tight between our two nations and that we must continue working to improve them further, he concluded.

Pardo met during the day with Vice President Carlos Lage; the foreign trade and economic cooperation ministers, Ricardo Cabrisas and Ernesto Melendez, respectively; and Cuban parliament President Ricardo Alarcon.

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Pardo will inaugurate the Colombian lecture room at the University of Havana tomorrow during a meeting of Colombian and Cuban university directors.

Costa Rica Reaffirms Plans To Restore Cuban Ties

PA0511000394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1722 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] San Jose, 4 Nov (PL)—The Costa Rican Government today reaffirmed its decision to open a mission in Cuba and added it is only awaiting the resolution of certain technical aspects.

Deputy Foreign Minister Rodrigo Carreras noted that they are currently putting the final touches on tasks that delegate Luis Guardia will carry out in the Cuban capital, including migratory procedures, certifications, and legalization of documents, which are activities inherent to a consulate.

Carreras insisted that diplomat Guardia, who is currently serving as ambassador to Guatemala, is ready and awaiting the resolution of the technical aspects.

On 31 August, the Costa Rican Government announced the opening of an immigration office in Havana.

Costa Rica broke diplomatic relations with Cuba in September 1961, when it supported an OAS agreement. In February 1977 it restored consular relations, which were broken four years later.

The two nations have maintained ties through commercial, cultural, and sports exchanges despite 34 years of an ironclad U.S. blockade against the island.

Cooperation Accord Signed With Argentina

PA0611044894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1050 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 5 Nov (PL)—Cuba and Argentina have signed a financial cooperation agreement which will allow for the exchange of experiences and job training in auditing and accounting of public and mixed capital enterprises.

Carmen Lorenzo, Cuban deputy minister for finance and prices, and Alberto Abad, general auditor of the Argentine Republic, signed the document, which the two sides described as very important.

While Cuba will benefit from advice on control and auditing of state and mixed capital enterprises, and Argentina will learn about Cuba's experiences in this area by receiving Cuban professors and officials recognized for their technical expertise.

After the agreement was signed, Jose Luis Rodriguez, minister president of the State Committee for Finance and Prices, said that this is the formal beginning of contacts that are already under way, contacts that create conditions for the very specific task of making known Cuba's experience in auditing and control while benefiting from Argentina's technology.

Abad also said that professional relations during the talks were enhanced by the Cubans' warmth. "I think we have already ensured that our work will be successful," said the trustee, whose position is equivalent to a state secretary or minister.

The Argentine official said that state control is very complex, and the more developed and open the economy, the more this control requires daily monitoring.

The University of Havana will play an important role in the fulfillment of the agreement, said Juan Vela, the new rector, who said that university professors and finance officials will travel to Argentina to take courses and lecture.

The idea for this agreement emerged in March during an international workshop on government auditing held in Cuba, which Hector Rodriguez, Argentina's general auditor, attended.

At the time, Rodriguez told PRENSA LATINA: "Ongoing privatization processes in Latin America notwithstanding, the state should not lose control of public services."

He added: "The state can stop controlling public services, but it is and will continue to be responsible for public health, education, and the various services necessary for the community to enjoy an ever higher standard of living."

PRC Delegation Arrives in Havana for Visit

PA0611192794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0208 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 5 Nov (PL)—A delegation from the PRC National Assembly (parliament) headed by Zhu Liang, a member of its Permanent Commission and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, arrived in Havana today.

In a statement to the press, Liang expressed his confidence the contacts they will make with representatives of the National Assembly of the People's Government of Cuba will contribute to strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between both nations.

Liang said he is very happy to be in Havana and said his country and Cuba maintain "excellent relations."

The PRC parliamentarian delegation will meet with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, Finance and Prices Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez, and Havana Mayor Conrado Benitez, among other top officials.

In addition, the PRC visitors will place a floral wreath on the monument to the Chinese Mambi soldier early in the morning of 7 November and will tour centers of socioeconomic interest afterward.

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Official Cited on Solidarity Meeting, Miami Summit

FL0411163794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Nov 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first International Solidarity With Cuba Meeting is scheduled to be held in Havana 21-25 November. It will send a clear message to the so-called Summit of the Americas, stated Carlos Rodriguez, director of the Europe Department of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples. He added that although it is by chance that the meeting will take place a few days before the summit in Miami, it will be a good opportunity for friends of Cuba worldwide to express their rejection of the U.S. blockade against Cuba. Rodriguez pointed out that the idea of an International Solidarity With Cuba Meeting was proposed during European and Latin American solidarity meetings and that, coinciding with the event, a ship from Germany will arrive with approximately 140 tons in donations, including 40 vehicles.

24-Hour Repairs Attempt To Correct Power Outages

FL0411162194 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Nov 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] An Electric Union note reports that extensive outages, in addition to those scheduled, have been taking place nationwide. Breakdowns at the Soto Parrilla Electric Plant in Talla Piedra, Havana; the Santa Cruz del Norte Electric Plant in Havana; and the Antonio Maceo—formerly Rente—Electric Plant in Santiago de Cuba were the cause of the additional outages. This, together with Monday's shutdown of the Antonio Guiteras electric Plant in Matanzas, resulted in an electricity deficit.

The Electric Union note adds that repair work is going on around the clock and that the situation is expected to improve within the next 24 hours.

Politburo Commission Tours Ciego de Avila Province

FL0711021294 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Nov 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Politburo commission formed by Central Committee department chiefs and government and Revolutionary Armed Forces officials has toured Ciego de Avila Province. Subjective problems still restricting the Cuban Communist Party's [PCC] work and some economic sectors in the province were discussed during a meeting at the end of the visit. Positive, exemplary experiences and people's opinions were highlighted. The commission visited six municipalities—comprising 74 percent of Ciego de Avila's population—239 PCC cells, and 32 people's councils and met over 8,000 locals. The sugarcane harvest and the recovery of sugarcane farms in the province were broadly discussed. Ciego de Avila is basically a sugarcane producing province; hence, the government and the PCC are focusing on necessary steps to ensure the most complete harvest possible. Leaders of sugarcane basic cooperative production units [UBPC], as well as leaders from the Ciro Redondo and Venezuela agroindustrial complexes and others, attended the meeting. They explained their main problems and alternatives adopted to solve them:

[Begin recording] [Sugar Industry Minister Nelson Torres] We cannot fail. Generally, when I ask, workers tell me that this year they have made better repairs than the previous year and that they have been done right. However, problems develop as soon as the harvest begins. Then we start realizing that things were not repaired right or things were lacking. Then it is too late. This could happen again. This is what happened last year, at least it is my recollection of last year's harvest. Regarding the work force, we do not have a numbers problem—such as 160 workers are needed, we already have 150, then we need 10 more. The real problem is that sugarcane workers need to assume responsibility. We need the short and efficient harvest for which Commander Raul Castro has called. Hence, we need well-trained, responsible, and capable men.

[Politburo member Carlos Lage] Much more could be accomplished, even under the current conditions. When we see cooperatives producing 5,000 arrobas without irrigation or fertilizers and UBPC showing positive results, we realize that we still have important subjective reserves despite supply shortages. [end recording]

The province's food situation and the results of miscellaneous crops UBPC were discussed, because the production goal of tubers and vegetables for this year is not being met. Participants stressed the need to stabilize the work force and to take better care of workers in the agriculture and other economic sectors.

The work of the 20 Aniversario de Bolivia Youth Labor Army Farm was praised, as well as the performances of Desembarco del Gramma UBPC and the Tercer Frente Oriental Contingent, which is engaged in plantain production.

Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro stressed the importance of integral performance as the only way to achieve good results. He added that it is not worth struggling individually, unless there is focus on a single goal first.

Lage also stressed the importance of leaders remaining alert even when they are off duty, identifying potential problems, and acting accordingly. He cited Fidel Castro: Socialism is the science of example.

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Ciego de Avila PCC leaders acknowledged that the visit will help them find solutions to their problems. Alfredo Hondal, PCC first secretary in Ciego de Avila Province, said that the discussions were thorough, that there was a desire to help, and that things done correctly were praised.

Jose Ramon Machado Ventura said that PCC Second Secretary Raul Castro is very interested in the results of these visits. Therefore, the best way of putting his mind and the PCC leadership's mind at ease is to quickly solve the problems within our reach. He added that we are the only ones who can solve most of our problems. Even though Cuba's foreign trade is improving, we can only move forward by relying on the people's daily efforts, taking full advantage of opportunities, and developing alternatives.

Haiti

Parliament Confirms Michel as Prime Minister

FL0511180594 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A reliable parliamentary source has reported that Parliament confirmed Smarck Michel as new Haitian prime minister last night. The same source reports that the 13 senators participating in the vote unanimously approved Michel, a 57-year-old businessman considered to be very close to Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, as prime minister. The Chamber of Deputies also confirmed Michel with a majority vote: Nobody voted against, and only a few deputies abstained. Daly Valet reports:

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Valet] Smarck Michel's case is actually moving right along, even though the Chamber of Deputies has apparently been dragging its feet on the matter. The special commission in charge of studying the case is ready to present its final report to the assembly. However, the discharge [decharge; the financial clearance certificate that the Supreme Court of Audit and Administrative Litigations (Cour Superieure des Comptes et du Contentieux Administratif, CSCCA) is constitutionally obliged to issue before any former government official can become prime minister or run for an elected post] question remains a headache. A bicameral commission of nine deputies and six senators is working in accordance with Constitution Article 233 to give the prime minister-designate a discharge certificate based on a technical report on how Smarck Michel managed state money when he was the Preval government's commerce minister in 1991. Both the special commission and the bicameral commission have examined the CSCCA's technical file a number of times. The special commission was waiting for the discharge commission report on the afternoon of 5 November so it could present a report before the Chamber of Deputies and make recommendations. Yves Pericles Beauge, Socialist deputy and commission president, said the commission is only waiting on the Chamber of Deputies vote.

[Beauge] Our report is obviously ready. We are merely waiting for the Chamber to say whether we should or should not wait for the bicameral commission's report. The Chamber might consider the bicameral commission report very important. Although we believe that the bicameral discharge commission report is important, it is up to the Chamber to issue a verdict. It may also have an idea of Michel's performance during his four months as commerce minister, based on the CSCCA report. It may have an idea of how well he managed the ministry.

[Valet] I should point out that, in general, all of Michel's files are correct, if we are to believe the statements of the majority of special commission members. The Chamber of Deputies was ready to vote on the afternoon of 4 November in the event that all reports had been presented. The majority of deputies were on the edge of their seats at about 1630, waiting for the bicameral commission report. The commission president, who insisted that Michel's files meet all constitutional requirements, commented.

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, the commission deems them correct.

[Valet] Do you think that between now and 7 November the Chamber of Deputies will have time to decide on Smarck Michel?

[Unidentified speaker] Our commission is ready today, even if the Chamber decides to issue a verdict later. The deputies have been willing to discuss this report until now. We are waiting...[pauses] All deputies are present. We are waiting for a majority. We are mostly waiting for the bicameral commission report.

[Valet] The bicameral commission should give its report today?

[Unidentified speaker] In principle, yes.

[Valet] Senators are working hard to confirm Smarck Michel before 7 November. They worked behind closed doors on a fast voting procedure on the afternoon of 4 November. Senate President Firmin Jean-Louis announced during a meeting between legislators and President Aristide that they would work on 5 and 6 November so the prime minister can be confirmed before 7 November. One of the reasons that Jean-Louis mentioned is that a World Bank delegation is expected to arrive on 7 November to negotiate economic and financial matters. It is rumored that the World Bank delegation does not seem to be willing to negotiate with any resigning head of government. What they want is a final head of government who has been confirmed, licensed, and (?immunized). The World Bank and the IMF have begun imposing their rules on Haiti. Everybody will obey. [end recording]

[Port-au-Prince Tropic FM in Creole at 1315 GMT on 5 November reports that Jean-Louis reported that the legislative vote on Michel's policy declaration will take place at 1700 GMT on 6 November.]

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Michel Announces New Cabinet Members

PA0711000894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2212 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Port-au-Prince, 6 Nov (EFE)—Haitian Prime Minister Smarck Michel today announced the names of the ministers of the government headed by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Michel appeared before the Senate, which is expected to confirm him in his post shortly, to outline his general policy and announced the creation of four new ministries, including one to benefit Haitian women.

Michel appointed former General Wilthan Lherisson as national defense minister.

He appointed Rene Prosper head of the Interior Ministry. Prosper occupied that same position under the government headed by outgoing Prime Minister Robert Malval.

The other appointed ministers were:
Ministry of Justice, Lawyer Ernst Malebranche
Ministry of National Education, Professor Emmanel Buteau, who occupied the post of general director on two occasions
Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation, Jean-Marie Cherestal
Ministry of Social Affairs, Enold Joseph
Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Maurice Lafortune, who occupied that post when Ertha Pascal Trouillot temporarily headed the country (from March 1990 to February 1991)
Ministry of Information, Henri Claude Menard
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Claudette Werleigh, who has been in that post under Malval's government
Ministry of Economy, Marie Michel Rey, who occupied that post under Aristide and Malval's first government
Ministry of Public Health, Jean Moliere, who has been in that post since Malval appointed him
Ministry of Public Works, Marc-Henri Francois Rousseau, who occupied that post under the de facto government of Joseph Nerette (October 1991 to June 1992)
Ministry of Women's Affairs and Rights, Lise-Marie Dejean
Ministry of Culture (created), Jean Claude Bajeux.
Ministry of the 10th Department [to deal with Haitians residing abroad] (created), Fritzner Casseus
Ministry of Public Administration (created), Anthony Barbier, leader of the Haitian Nationalist Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, (PANPRA)
Secretary of State for Youth and Sports (created), Evans Lescouflair
Secretary of State for Mines, Rockefeller Guerre, leader of the minority Union of Democratic Patriots

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 2321 GMT on 6 November transmits a 50-word item adding the names of three more officials as follows:

["Secretary of State for the Interior, Patrick Elie, who is close to President Aristide and accompanied him in exile

["Secretary of State for Justice, Leon Jeune, who is close to President Aristide

["Ministry of Agriculture, Francois Severin, who has been in that post since Malval's government

["Michel also announced he will create a Secretary of State for Literacy and a Ministry of the Environment."]

Michel Receives Confidence Vote

PA0711010494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2345 GMT 6 Nov 94

[By Herold Jean-Francois]

[FBIS Translated Text] Port-au-Prince, 6 Nov (EFE)—Haitian Prime Minister Smarck Michel presented the government's overall policy to Haitian senators today, Sunday, and announced that the state does not have the resources to subsidize businesses.

Michel, who obtained a vote of confidence from the senators today, said special attention will be given to the Customs and Internal Revenue Departments in order to obtain resources.

The Haitian prime minister, who will appear before the Chamber of Deputies tomorrow, Monday, to present his overall policy and obtain its vote of confidence, said it is time for the country to enter the era of modernization and clear-cut policies.

Michel, who was interrogated by 14 senators, said he will adopt measures to immediately reduce inflation and increase exports. Everything will depend on the effort to modernize and promote agricultural activities and production in order to lower the price of agricultural products in the marketplace, the Haitian prime minister said.

Michel said he will also seek new markets for Haitian products abroad.

He said the government will work to get taxpayers to pay what they owe the state so the nation can survive.

He said it is wrong for the Haitian population to have gone for so long without potable water and a health infrastructure.

Michel said his government's objective is to build a decentralized state with coordination between a central power and several local powers. He added that services should be provided at the departmental and municipal levels and said he intends to reorganize and improve public services.

He also said he will promote the creation of an autonomous university so the country can change and progress. He said he will regulate the status of nongovernmental organizations so they can cooperate with the state in the country's development and promote a more concerted social effort.

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"The state cannot operate on its own and cannot manage the economy by itself," Michel said while speaking to the senators. He told them that under the current circumstances the private sector is incapable of helping the state fulfill its economic role and stressed the need for its consolidation and modernization. Michel said the government wants to make a pact with the private sector to rebuild the country's resources. He added that the private sector must modernize its productive activities so the state can provide services. [sentence as received]

He said the private sector must understand that its role is important in society but that the population has the right to participate in its development. He said he will create several mixed public and private sector commissions.

Michel promised to create a democratic environment, something that is required in order to hold free legislative elections to renew two-thirds of the Senate.

He said the government will provide the parliament with the necessary funds and specialized personnel, including jurists, to make work easier. He promised to build a new structure to house the Haitian parliament. He also said he will create an office in each municipality for those elected so the legislators can stay in permanent contact with their constituency.

Michel stressed that justice will be a cornerstone of his administration. He said he will work for the third power (the judicial branch) to gain its independence from the executive and legislative branches. Michel announced an increase in the number of courts across the country, as well as the number of magistrates. He also announce the creation of a truth commission, a plan to revise all codes (civil, penal, and judicial, among others), and warned that the government will fight the corruption that deprives justice of the people's trust. He commented that "the first sign of the state of law we are contemplating" will be to decentralize justice and bring it closer to the people.

Michel called on Haitians living in the Tenth Department (those living abroad) to participate and work with the Haitian private sector. He asked them to take over the administration of some of the public enterprises that the government will be forced to abandon and privatize.

He said it is necessary to improve the quality of education and that the private sector and teachers organizations must participate in a national plan to train and certify new teachers. He said special attention will be given to recently opened high schools and that we will concentrate on repairing public elementary schools and providing them with scientific laboratories.

Michel promised to improve nutrition programs for schoolchildren and help acquire materials. He announced that his administration will introduce new curricula into Haiti's public schools.

He maintained that the government's plan does not include the buying and selling consumer goods, something that is not part of the overall policy.

Michel announced that a national conference will decide whether to convene a permanent electoral council or an interim commission to organize the legislative election, the date for which has not been set.

Michel Urges Economic Liberalization

PA0711034694 Paris AFP in Spanish 0209 GMT 7 Nov 94

[By Dominique Levanti]

[FBIS Translated Text] Port-au-Prince, 6 Nov (AFP)—Smarck Michel, new prime minister of Haiti, on Sunday asked for a reasonable time period to proceed with the liberalization of the island's basic economic sectors, which the United States wants.

Regarding the general policies unanimously approved by the Senate, Michel, a 57-year-old businessman close to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, expressed his reservations about the accelerated liberalization of the Haitian economy.

Without mentioning the United States, the new Haitian prime minister said the island is restoring its relations with the international community "through the opening of its economy."

Michel said that above all else the Haitian people demand "justice and political rights," and "we understand that they have given us a deadline and expect us to accompany them in recovering their economic rights," Michel said.

"If we forget to lay the groundwork, we could fall into the ultraliberal path with its predictable harmful social effects. We have to take our time to integrate socially and politically the measures that will lead us toward the shores of modernity," he added.

As for the privatization of public enterprises, something that is being encouraged by U.S. authorities, Michel said it is the "final" goal, but preliminary "studies" are needed for an accurate diagnosis of the condition of the enterprises.

The state could start by selling the least profitable enterprises and sign "management contracts" for the rest or conduct "privatization by segments," the prime minister said.

"Nothing will prevent the state from assisting schoolchildren or the least protected segments of the population with the resources obtained from the enterprises left under its control," he said.

Michel said, however, that it is indispensable to explicitly list "social expenditures in the national budget."

According to experts, the list of most profitable enterprises in the country is headed by Telecommunications d'Haiti S.A. disconnected from all U.S. participation by the Duvalier "dynasty" (Francois and Jean Claude, who held the country in their hands between 1957 and 1986).

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Telecommunications d'Haiti S.A. owes its profitability to the telephone calls made by the hundreds of thousands of Haitians living in the United States and Canada.

Over the last three years, Washington had frozen the funds produced by these telephone calls within the framework of the sanctions imposed on the Haitian coupist generals.

Part of the funds were made available to constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, exiled in Washington, to guarantee his diplomatic activities and the work of his secretary and government.

According to reliable sources, there are already several U.S. firms waiting to participate in the privatization of the telecommunications sector. Electricite d'Haiti will also have many bidders interested in purchasing it.

Aristide Meets Legislators on Elections 4 Nov

FL0511141594 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Report by correspondent Rothschild Francois—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Jean-Bertrand Aristide received more than 60 senators and deputies of different political affiliations at the National Palace this morning. They discussed the national reconciliation process that Aristide has been calling for since returning on 15 October. Aristide noted Parliament's importance to a democratic system and addressed the upcoming legislative elections. The president hopes the elections will be held [words indistinct] the opinion of the various political parties before clearly launching the Haitian legislative race. The president would like these to be model elections for Haiti:

[Begin Aristide recording] Best wishes to election participants! Hopefully, the campaign will begin in December, and the electoral practices with which we are so familiar will help bring us together for dialogue so that we can help each other and hold nice elections. Victory will transcend the candidates and the voters to embrace the entire nation: The entire nation benefits when voters and candidates hold hands during the campaign and after the elections. Voters and absentee voters will participate in the elections. Let us hold hands and walk together, celebrating the nation's victory in advance. [end recording]

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide made these remarks during an address to more than 60 legislators at the National Palace. Legislators once particularly hostile to President Aristide were pleased with this initiative. Rita Frederic Moncoeur, of the Union for National Reconciliation, who opposed President Aristide's return to Haiti, hailed President Aristide's initiative. She said that the president has changed and that she is ready to help promote the national reconciliation process that the president has been calling for since returning to Haiti. National Assembly President Firmin Jean-Louis pointed out during the meeting that Haiti should have a new government by the weekend, meaning that legislators will work hard over the weekend to confirm Smarck Michel as prime minister.

Port-au-Prince Mayor on Presidential Candidacy

FL0511132894 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul does not rule out the possibility that he could succeed President Aristide. Paul told reporters in Washington on 3 November of his potential candidacy in the 1995 election. He said—quote—I am always a candidate for democracy. Paul believes that the very complex procedures outlined in the Haitian Constitution will make setting up the legislative ballot difficult. The capital's mayor, who was attending a conference on Central American police reform in Washington, said that he is very concerned about the Haitian Armed Forces' integration into the new Haitian police force. He said—quote—they cannot be won over—unquote. However, he does support the idea of exchanging appointments or grants for peace in an effort to isolate or eliminate the extremists. Paul asks that the international community get aid payments to Haitians quickly, pointing out that money that was promised has yet to be received. Finally, he hopes that the paramilitary will be disarmed and a real police force will be formed quickly. The Port-au-Prince mayor concluded by noting that there are many weapons in Haiti and that the situation remains dangerous.

Public Urged To Help Recapture Deputy's Assassin

FL0511125694 Port-au-Prince Tropic FM in French 1700 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Military authorities issued a press release on 3 November reporting that about 400 prisoners escaped from the national penitentiary in Port-au-Prince overnight 15-16 October. This press release, signed by Colonel Jean Brunel Coby, Army General Staff secretary, also notes that Deputy Astrel Charles' assassin has escaped from the Cap-Haitien prison, where he had been sentenced to hard labor for life. A rural police officer assassinated Charles on 15 December 1991. The press release concludes with Army Headquarters enlisting everyone's help in efforts to capture the delinquents and warning that Haitian society will be morally and materially compromised as long as these delinquents remain free.

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Senate Resolution Denounces Proposition 187

PA0411145394 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Report by Rebeca Sanchez Fernandez; from the "Early Morning" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The national Senate has voiced strong opposition to Proposition 187, which excludes illegal immigrants from basic services. The Senate emphasized that the initiative, which will be voted on in four days in the state of California, violates the U.S. Constitution and international agreements on human rights.

Following an agreement signed by the PAN [National Action Party], PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], and PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] legislative factions, the legislators requested that while observing the principle of nonintervention, the government should continue presenting diplomatic and consular arguments to the U.S. Government opposing the mistreatment and discrimination Mexican citizens face in California; that the government reinforce its defense of Mexicans living in the state, regardless of their immigration status; and, if the proposal is approved, that the case be taken before the United Nations and the OAS.

The Senate resolution calls on the people and government of the state of California to reflect on this racist and xenophobic attitude. It requests that the Mexican people remain alert to developments and offer support and solidarity to fellow citizens facing this wave of xenophobia and the violation of their rights.

The legislators feel confident that diplomacy and respectful dialogue will allow both countries to combat this situation. Last, the lawmakers called for negotiations on a bilateral agreement that will guarantee the protection and rights of Mexican migrant workers.

Further on Senate Denunciation

PA0411150994 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Report by Ana Cristina Pelaez and Claudia Flores; from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mexican Senate today accused California Governor Pete Wilson of carrying out a racist policy against illegal aliens.

[Pelaez] The Senate opened its sessions by issuing a unanimous resolution signed by the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], PAN [National Action Party], and PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution]. The resolution sternly condemned Wilson's Proposition 187 and the fact that this initiative, which has yet to be approved, has heightened racist and xenophobic attitudes and increased the number of violations of the human rights of Mexicans for no other reason than because they are Mexican. Silvia Hernandez, president of the Senate in November [as heard], read the five-point resolution. According to the resolution, the Mexican Government warns:

[Begin Hernandez recording] If Proposition 187 is approved, the Senate will take this issue to the OAS and the United Nations. [end recording]

[Pelaez] The senators called on the Mexican people and residents along the northern border to support and express solidarity with Mexicans living in the United States. Meanwhile, six Mexican political parties rejected Proposition 187.

[Flores] Representatives of six Mexican political parties held a joint news conference in Mexico City to voice strong opposition to California's Proposition 187. Hector Delgado, press secretary of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party, read a document on behalf of the Labor Party, the Mexican Democratic Party, the Popular Socialist Party, the Mexican Green Ecologist Party, and the PRD, stating that preventing immigrants from receiving health and educational services could jeopardize Mexican-U.S. relations.

[Begin Delgado recording] Similar steps were taken in Nazi concentration camps during World War II. [end recording]

[Flores] The six political parties will stage a protest Friday [4 November] afternoon in front of the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City to urge U.S. citizens to vote against Proposition 187.

People's Front Protests Proposition 187 at U.S. Embassy

PA0411222294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2059 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 4 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Members of the Political Commission of the People's Front (FP) have held a rally in front of the U.S. Embassy to reject Proposition 187, which is being promoted by California Governor Pete Wilson.

The demonstrators, who arrived at the diplomatic mission at noon, said that they reject the measure because "it is contrary to the general spirit of the U.S. Constitution and violates the most basic human rights."

Commission member German Hurtado said that this protest "is the first of a number of mobilizations to be held here and in other cities of the country to vigorously demand respect for the rights and guarantees of migrant workers."

It is not possible, he added "that when it is to their advantage, during harvest time, the belligerant border patrol turns a blind eye and allows a large number of illegal workers to reach farms and ranches. [no closing quotation mark as received]

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Hurtado said that the commission "plans to hand a letter to U.S. Ambassador James Jones in which we voice our view on this proposition, and we only hope that he will greet us to allow us to do so."

At the border city of Tijuana, members of "Operation Dignity" announced that this weekend, they will carry out a commercial boycott against the businessmen who have supported Proposition 187.

"We will not ask people to stop crossing into the United States, but we will urge them to not buy at businesses that have financed Proposition 187 to get them to stop supporting Gov. Wilson," they added.

The operation members said that they will reveal the names of some 1,770 U.S. companies that financed the proposition and that will now be the targets of a commercial boycott.

Last weekend, 32 civilian and political organizations boycotted businesses in southern California to protest against Gov. Wilson's anti-immigration policy.

Proposition 187, which will be presented for the consideration of voters in the 8 November elections, would deny medical assistance and education to Mexican immigrants residing in California.

Opposition Parties Demonstrate

PA0511035794 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Nov 94

[Report by Rocio Correa from Paseo de la Reforma in Mexico City—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correa] This afternoon, Paseo de la Reforma—Mexico City's major thoroughfare—was closed in both directions. Fortunately, free access on this road was restored approximately 10 minutes ago. Members of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party, as well as members of the Labor Party, the Mexican Green Ecologist Party, the National Opposition Union, the Popular Socialist Party, and the Party of the Democratic Revolution were there. They all gathered across the U.S. Embassy to demand that the wave of racism against immigrants living in the United States stop and to demonstrate against Proposition 187, which is being promoted by California Governor Pete Wilson. This demonstration that took place across the U.S. Embassy lasted approximately one hour. During that time, the normal traffic on roads converging with Paseo de la Reforma was jammed.

[Announcer] Was there much security around the U.S. Embassy?

[Correa] Yes. As expected, when these incidents take place, the soldiers are always deployed, and this occasion was no exception. Let us listen to some of the slogans shouted by the demonstrators. [words indistinct]

[Announcer] Rocio, we were unable to understand what they were saying. Could you tell us, please?

[Correa] Of course. They were shouting: "Death to Pete Wilson!" "Let the human rights of immigrants be respected!" And especially: "Viva Mexico and human rights!" We should add that the demonstrators emphasized that U.S. President William Clinton only expressed his opposition to Proposition 187 because denying health services to immigrants could result in centers of infection. If the immigrants were to die due to the lack of health services, Clinton would not care, the demonstrators pointed out. The demonstrators finally urged the Mexican Government to issue a more forceful and assertive declaration against Proposition 187. Approximately at 1130 hours today, there was another demonstration across the U.S. Embassy to protest Proposition 187. Civilian organizations of Mexico City attended this morning's demonstration.

Human Rights Representative Views Proposition 187

PA0511202394 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Report from Tijuana by Francisco Trejos; from the "Early Morning" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is a long way to get here. This is the line marking the end of the final sprint. On your mark, ready, set, go! True to the word go, the California Border Patrol evicts 1,000 undocumented individuals from the United States every day. As in every race, some make it and some do not. The problem is this is a race for survival. Most are men between 16 and 36 years of age, and the arrival simply marks the beginning of more problems. To be realistic, however, these men who arrive in California and other parts of the United States represent many dollars:

[Begin Victor Clark, Binational Human Rights Commission representative, recording] Two important studies by the Center for Urban Studies in Washington and by the School of Social Work in Berkeley have indicated that Pete Wilson's data is wrong and that there is a surplus tax contribution of more than $12 billion in California and $28 billion at a national level. [end recording]

This is the reason, in green bills. This figure should be enough for the authorities in that country to reflect on the impact of Proposition 187. Paradoxically, the country which was made by immigrants, which calls itself a defender of democracy the world over is the first to violate human rights in its own territory and under protection of the law:

[Begin Clark recording] It is worrying to see the impact it is having already; the impact has served to rekindle this historical, racist sentiment I mentioned a moment ago that is still present. [end recording]

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The California governor's proposition has caused a negative impact and is detrimental to relations of both countries, because border cities run economic and social risks. U.S. business is already feeling the effects of Operation Dignity, however. An inexplicable point is that people such as Walt Disney [as heard], Steven Spielberg, and Frank Sinatra, who earn plenty of money in our country, are now giving economic backing to Pete Wilson's proposition. We need, perhaps, to take more drastic measures to defend our fellow citizens:

[Begin Clark recording] A significant impact would be a blockade of U.S. imports in Mexico and to boycott the most important firms contributing to Wilson's campaign. [end recording]

Voice of disagreement, nonetheless, can also be heard on the U.S. side, because it would cost $15 billion a year to implement the proposition:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified woman in English, with passage by passage translation into Spanish] The proposition is inhumane. No one has a right to decide who is better than someone else.

[Mexican immigrant Chuy, identified by caption] You are going to see women, men, children, people from Oaxaca—these are the people who take women and children there—suffering and making sacrifices to send at least something home. [end recording]

Nevertheless, the true origin of the problem is in our country, in the lack of opportunities and jobs, but the countdown has started in California.

INAMI Deports 1,000 U.S.-Bound Migrants in 1994

PA0411201694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1519 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tijuana, 4 Nov (NOTIMEX)—It was revealed today that Mexican immigration authorities this year have deported 1,090 undocumented Central Americans, Asians, and Africans who planned to cross the border into the United States. The National Immigration Institute (INAMI) reported it repatriated 545 Guatemalans, 218 Salvadorans, 218 Hondurans, and an additional 109 Indians, Somalians, and Egyptians to their respective homelands.

INAMI estimated that an average of 90 undocumented aliens are deported each month, but it reported that in October the number of deportees rose to 120. INAMI added that, when apprehended, the undocumented aliens were taken to the Public Penitentiary to be later flown to Mexico City, from where they were taken to their country of origin.

Text of EZLN Letter to Peace Commissioner

PA0511043294 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 1 Nov 94 p 18

[FBIS Translated Text] Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]. Mexico. 26 October 1994.

To: Jorge Madrazo y Cuellar, peace and reconciliation commissioner for Chiapas.

From: Insurgent Subcommander Marcos. EZLN, General Headquarters. Mountains in southeast Mexico. Chiapas, Mexico.

On 22 October, I received your communique regarding the establishment of a verification committee that would supposedly be located at the federal Army roadblocks in Ocosingo, Las Margaritas, and Altamirano. At the same time, at 1400 hours on 22 October, a Federal Army patrol advanced toward the ruins of Tonina, Ocosingo Municipality, entering the territory where our troops were positioned. At approximately 2000 hours on 22 October, federal airplanes flew over the Morelia ejido and entered the Lacandona jungle. At 2100 hours on 25 October, Armed Forces airplanes flew over the Guadalupe Tepeyac buffer zone. The indiscriminate arrest and torture of civilians accused of being Zapatists continues. Either you are deceiving us and are involved in a future breakdown of the cease-fire, or you are being deceived yourself. That is something you must determine.

I inform you that I have orders from the CCRI-CG [Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee—General Command] of the EZLN not to insist any further in reporting the continuous provocations of the federal Army, since it is useless, because you have already decided what you are going to do. Tell Mr. Salinas de Gortari that he has done everything possible to end his mandate with a war and that he is succeeding in that effort.

I received a document dated 18 October 1994 in which the Federal Government responds to Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia's initiative regarding new negotiations. I am surprised that a lawyer such as you should endorse a document plagued with errors, stupidities, and lies. Through its actions, the government has insisted on a military solution. The charges we have made regarding intimidation by government forces—indicating the place, day, and hour these took place—have not been denied by the government.

Personnel from the CNDH [National Commission for Human Rights] and from the Peace Commissioner's Office at the military blockades are carrying out police work—gathering information and intimidating the people who enter or exit the conflict zone.

The document says that there should be commitments between the government and the EZLN and that these commitments should be established in a relationship between equals "otherwise we would be faced with an unequal, or asymmetric, relationship in which all obligations would fall on one party and all the rights and demands on the other party" (a direct quotation from your document). According to this, if this is a relationship between equals, then the federal government must not only recognize us as a belligerent force, but also as a

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government of the same stature as the federal government. This would be a relationship between equals—not unequal or asymmetrical. If this is the purpose of the existing government, it should make it clear: it should declare that it recognizes the EZLN as a belligerent force and as a revolutionary state. If this is so, we are willing to renew negotiations immediately, as equals to gain all the rights and obligations a relationship between equals implies. If not as equals, if we are not recognized as a belligerent force, then it is a legal absurdity to claim and demand strict equality from us in our relationship with the federal government.

Besides, you say that Mr. Salinas de Gortari has ordered the Army to take up the positions it had "not only on 23 March, but including 12 January 1994, when the cease-fire went into effect." The positions currently occupied by the federal Army are not he same positions that they occupied on 12 January 1994, therefore Mr. Salinas' "order" has not been obeyed. Besides, Salinas de Gortari's proposal increases the probability of a clash between the forces because on 12 January 1994 the two forces were in a position to attack each other. Mr. Ruiz Garcia's proposal is much different. He suggests returning to positions occupied on dates when the fighting was lightest. Remember that on 12 January, the war could have erupted at any moment. Before 23 March, when the government was planning to kill Colosio, our forces were discussing the signing of the peace accords. On that date, federal troops as well as the EZLN had abandoned—through their actions—the possibility of an immediate clash. Since a relationship "between equals" is insisted upon, then, in reply to the Salinist "order" to return to the 12 January positions, we could deploy our troops to occupy the 12 January positions—when we were preparing to continue the war—and not the 23 March positions—when we were preparing to follow the path of peace. Mr. Salinas de Gortari's proposal coincides with our appreciation that his government is doing everything possible to renew hostilities.

On the other hand, we note the tone of the ultimatum on conditions to resume the dialogue. I inform you that the "conditions" were already met by the EZLN even before they were specified. One only needs to read the newspaper to see our reply to the Episcopal Commission in which we admit there are irregular conditions within the Zapatist territory, and we invite nongovernmental human rights organizations to investigate these reports. Is the federal government willing to do likewise regarding reports against the federal Army? On the topic of allowing communities inside the conflict area to receive federal government aid, you can visit the San Quintin ejido in Ocosingo Municipality. San Quintin is inhabitated by PRI followers. Each house has that federal government "electrification" shit program, which Mr. Hernandez Llamas [executive spokesman for the Chiapas peace efforts] is so proud of amd which consists of a solar cell and four lightbulbs. No one prevented them from receiving this charity from a government that loots the energy resources from Chiapas. They also receive loans and all those lies from spokesman Hernandez.

Regarding criminal actions by alleged Zapatists in Teopisca and Tapachula; the Teopisca "Zapatists" drive brand-new "Wagoneers" station wagons in front of the public security garrison. I have no reports from Tapachula, but according to the federals, no guerrilla groups are in operation there (of course, perhaps the government is lying, like it did in May 1993). Anyway, public opinion (and the government) knows that when the EZLN does something it takes responsibility for it publicly.

The return of displaced people has never been a problem. Perhaps you are unaware that commissions are appointed to come and check their property and pay people to care for it, while the displaced still claim government aid. Now there are "promoters for displaced" (the same way as there were "promoters for votes"), who propose in the communities that those who are not Zapatist make arrangements with the EZLN to take care of their properties in exchange for a wage and then go to the camps of the displaced and collect government aid. They have always been able to return, they do so all the time.

Anyway, "conditions" are a government invention to give themselves time to prepare their war policy; control of the media. [sentence as published] But in view of the fact that the government has allowed itself to condition its return to the dialogue, then we shall do likewise. These are our conditions to study the possibility of restarting talks:

1. That the murders of Monsignor Posadas, Luis Donaldo Colosio, and Ruiz Massieu be solved and that the truly guilty be punished.

2. That a peace commissioner and a Commission of Intermediaries be appointed to mediate between the various political and narcopolitical groups inside the government and the state party, in order to resolve their differences in a civilized manner and through dialogue, without having to resort to murder.

3. A public commitment be made by PRI members to stop killing one another. This worries us because if they continue killing themselves there will be no one left for us, and we will have to disappear as an army.

Once these conditions are met and in a favorable atmosphere for dialogue, then we could discuss the restart of talks aimed at a political solution to the conflict.

Regarding government observation camps, the best we can say is that they are a problem. Salinas de Gortari intends to convince us that the government is going to be an impartial observer of what the government does. No, Mr. Madrazo, the observation camps are a serious and genuine peace effort, but they must be neutral. The observation camps should be neither government nor

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EZLN; the observations camps should be in the hands of those who forced you and us to a cease-fire and a dialogue, at the beginning of the year: the civilian society. To summarize, it seems like only the government war actions are legitimate. Mr. Madrazo, why seek to take the situation to the limit of its explosibility? Do you want to force an unconditional surrender disguised as dialogue? Do you reckon that you can unleash a war and control its effects? Who benefits from this? At the same time as the conditions were stated, the federal Army once again began using dismissive terms, treating us as criminals. The peerless Deputy Cuauhtemoc Lopez Sanchez has already spoken in favor of a military solution. I reiterate to you and Deputy Lopez Sanchez what is stated in the 8 October 1994 communique: we are ready, you may come when you please.

Respectfully,
From the mountains in southwest Mexico,
Insurgent Subcommander Marcos.
Mexico, October 1994

Peace Commissioner Responds

PA0511142094 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 2 Nov 94 p 16

[Report by Ciro Perez Silva—passages within italics as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, the Chiapas peace and reconciliation commissioner, said he will respond to *Subcommander Marcos* "with my head, not with my feelings" in reference to the most recent communique by the military strategist of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) in which the commissioner is questioned "for wanting to drag the situation to the limits of an explosion."

Subcommander Marcos accuses the commissioner in his communique of only considering the government's war actions as legal. "You are either mocking us and are an accomplice to the future breaking of the cease-fire, or you are also being deceived. This point is something you must clear up," the rebel leader upholds in his communique.

Madrazo Cuellar, interviewed after President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's sixth State of the Nation Address, has said in his response to *Subcommander Marcos* he will make "some observations" on the statements he makes in the communique on which "we differ."

The observations Madrazo Cuellar will make concern the EZLN's statement on a communique the peace commissioner sent to *Subcommander Marcos* on 22 October in which he presented the conditions to resume the dialogue between the government and the EZLN. The EZLN considers these conditions as an "ultimatum."

The peace commissioner has rejected the EZLN's perception and has said "caution will continue being on the side of the government of the republic." Madrazo Cuellar has upheld that the communique "expresses the desire to continue constructing a strong mediation to be able to progress toward a fruitful dialogue that will achieve a peace with justice and dignity."

Madrazo Cuellar has said he has been talking as the commissioner with Samuel Ruiz Garcia, the San Cristobal bishop, regarding the priest's proposal for a new dialogue.

He has said "there is talk not of a new initiative but, rather, of a new stage of the dialogue in which civil society must participate."

He has reiterated his willingness to meet with the intermediation commission proposed by Ruiz Garcia: "Good results could be obtained from this meeting, which will take place in the next few days, to resume the dialogue and draw near the peace all we Mexicans want." Nevertheless, he has acknowledged the situation in Chiapas is "difficult and delicate," although there "is all the political willingness to engage in the dialogue."

In a separate interview, German Gonzalez Quintero, president of the Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce (Concanaco), has said there are still conditions for the peaceful change of command at the Presidency of the republic despite the outbreaks of violence staged this year.

Gonzalez Quintero has acknowledged the conflict in Chiapas "adversely affected the nation's economic progression during all of 1994." Nevertheless, he has said there are conditions for a transition without violence despite the armed rebellion.

The Concanaco president has expressed his trust that "all the political parties will reach an agreement without problems for a democratic transition in the nation's government."

In reference to the optimism the current government had stated with regard to achieving a more favorable economic progression in 1995, Gonzalez Quintero has said a 4-percent growth rate will probably be achieved next year.

In this regard, Luis German Carcoba, president of the Business Coordinating Council, has said President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will leave behind a "nation with a solid economic base for growth." He has said the coming government will have "to strengthen the microeconomy."

He has acknowledged the outgoing administration "has been correcting errors made for many years that are not easy to change," errors such as the unbalanced distribution of wealth.

Carcoba has said "we have a nation today that is much more solid than what we had previously. The cost this change entails is not simple but now counts on a macroeconomics foundation without which the perspectives of

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solid and stable growth would not have been possible. This factor will generate the jobs we need and will allow the gradual recovery of purchasing power."

EZLN Dismisses Civic Action Board as Legal Representative

PA0511231594 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 4 Nov 94 p 20

[Communique issued by the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the EZLN "from the mountains of southeastern Mexico" on 2 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] 2 November 1994
To the People of Mexico:
To the People and Governments of the World:
To the National and International Media:
Brothers:

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command [CCRI-CG] of the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] declares the following:

FIRST—Since February 1994, the EZLN has requested legal support to face the negotiation process with the mighty government. The so-called "Legal Commission of the National Civic Action Coordinating Board for National Liberation (Conac-LN) [Coordinadora Nacional de Accion Civica para la Liberacion Nacional]" offered this support. The Conac-LN Legal Commission has not contacted the EZLN since June 1994, although it still needs advisement. Following the first CND [National Democratic Convention] session, the Conac-LN leadership drifted away from the CND and promoted activities unrelated to the CND, claiming to be, along with other organizations, a representative of the "authentic CND spirit." This attitude has triggered division and dissension instead of internal debate and fraternal criticism within the CND.

SECOND—The EZLN respects the internal structure of the many sociopolitical organizations, as well as the decisions they make. It cannot, however, advocate calls and practices intended to create division and decline within the national democratic movement. The EZLN has repeatedly insisted on promoting the unity of all democratizing forces and a new political relationship as a cornerstone in the fight for democracy, freedom, and justice. The EZLN cannot allow its name and struggle to be associated with a peaceful civic movement, the direction of which fails to promote unity even among its own rank and file.

THIRD—Therefore, the CCRI-CG of the EZLN decided to dismiss the Conac-LN's Legal Commission as its legal representative in the domestic and foreign arenas.

FOURTH—The CCRI-CG of the EZLN publicly acknowledges the rank and file of the Conac-LN and its directive committees in the countryside. They have always stood out for their unselfish and honest work within their civic and peaceful fight for democracy, freedom, and justice. The EZLN urges the Conac-LN rank and file to join the CND ranks and committees and, within this new organization, help create a new political practice.

FREEDOM!
JUSTICE!
DEMOCRACY!
Respectfully,
From the mountains of southeastern Mexico,
CCRI-CG of the EZLN
Mexico, November 1994

Representatives Abandon Democratic Convention Session

PA0511143294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2205 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, 4 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Representatives of approximately 20 independent organizations have abandoned the full session of the second meeting of the National Democratic Convention (CND) to protest the attitude assumed by the Chiapas guerrilla group.

Francisco Maya Tilez, from the Independent Proletarian Movement, has voiced his disagreement with the communique issued on 3 November by the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) in which it grants its 20 votes in favor of unknown organizations.

Departing from the meeting, Maya said it was "a mockery" that the armed group, which emerged on 1 January in Chiapas, had decided to support minority organizations, to the exclusion of combating social organizations that are represented nationwide.

"It is better for us to break with the CND than to work for democracy if its true force is not recognized," he has said.

The independent organizations that have abandoned the full session of the second CND meeting come from the states of Mexico, San Luis Potosi, Puebla, Veracruz, and the Federal District.

Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, CND president, has told NOTIMEX the EZLN communique was not understood, as "Subcommander Marcos only proposed certain names and organizations to integrate the CND's new collective presidency, which will be annexed to those already existing."

She has said "in no way can the EZLN's support be interpreted as selective or exclusionary, because it is only a proposal, and it will be the convention members of this second session who would accept or reject this proposal by a majority of votes."

The political platform, its characteristics and structure, as well as the convention's plan of action to achieve a transition government in Chiapas will be discussed at the CND session.

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Approximately 6,000 delegates were present during the CND's first session held in San Cristobal de las Casas and in the town of "Aguascalientes," Margaritas Municipality, while on this occasion a little more than 300 attended.

PRI, PRD Leaders Agree on Need for Reform

PA0411163794 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 2 Nov 94 p 7

[Report by Jorge Octavio Ochoa]

[FBIS Translated Text] In terms of choosing between peace or violence, national leaders of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] yesterday acknowledged the urgency of initiating a dialogue as soon as possible among the nation's major political forces to carry out a fundamental and definitive reform in Mexico—the reform of the state.

Porfirio Munoz Ledo, president of the CEN [National Executive Committee] of the PRD, warned that the Mexican political system can no longer weather storms like the one that occurred yesterday—storms in which one man alone becomes "the center of the universe and is so infatuated with himself that he disdains everyone else".

Regarding this, Ignacio Pichardo also acknowledged the "urgency" of such a dialogue, adding that it will have to begin in the "very near" future. "At least that is the position of the PRI," Pichardo stressed.

This was confirmed by CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers] leader Emilio M. Gonzalez, who declared, "There will be electoral reforms, and all issues related to electoral reforms will concern all of the political parties, including the PRI." These sentiments were expressed following President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's sixth and final State of the Nation Address, which, according to Pichardo Pagaza, was a "recapitulation of six years of the most rapid changes" Mexico has experienced in the modern era.

Munoz Ledo emphatically said a change in Mexico's political structure is urgent, because we cannot continue under the current format—a dialogue among the deaf in which the president does not listen and the parties have to protest "the way in which the PRD protested."

Regarding this, dissident PRD Senator Herberto Castillo agreed on the need for political reform, because, he said, it is imperative to do away with centralization and to reduce the all-encompassing power of the president of the republic of Mexico.

Even so, the leader of the Federal District's new Representative Assembly, Manuel Jimenez Guzman, described Salinas as a man "in tune with his time and consistent with the ideals of the revolution"—a man who introduced significant reforms in Mexico in the political, economic, and social realms.

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El Salvador

President Requests Clinton Extend Permits

PA0611172294 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 5 Nov 94 p 49

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sonsonate—President Armando Calderon Sol said U.S. President Bill Clinton has received a request for an extension of the permit, which is about to expire, allowing Salvadorans to remain in the United States.

The president visited Military Detachment No. 6 yesterday along with other government officials to attend the swearing-in ceremony for 320 new soldiers.

He also expressed regret over the attitude of California Governor Pete Wilson, who is drafting a series of sanctions for illegal immigrants for reasons of "personal interest" that will adversely affect minorities, not only Salvadorans but also all immigrant communities in the United States.

He said this governor's attitude "endangers the American union," which is the relationship between brother countries and the United States.

According to Calderon Sol, representatives of the adversely affected communities have been holding talks with various U.S. political leaders asking them to exert pressure so that the governor's recommendation to suspend the rights of the illegal immigrants is not approved.

He also mentioned the problems with the settlements along the border between Honduras and El Salvador, adding the implementation of the programs aimed at solving these problems are not making much progress. He said, however, "the appropriate studies are already being conducted with the cooperation of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the United Nations with the support of the international community." He said the obstacles for the full development of the program are due to financial difficulties.

He said there is a commission in charge of rescheduling the programs "to demonstrate the government's total and absolute willingness." The government will request the support of friendly countries and the international community to implement the programs, he said. [passage omitted]

Government Protests ONUSAL Director's Remarks

PA0611172494 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 5 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has demanded an explanation from ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] for referring to several judges as "corrupt" and "shameless" and has announced it will send a protest note to the organization.

"ONUSAL Director Enrique Ter-Horts will have to give an explanation to the Salvadoran people," President Armando Calderon Sol has stated, adding he has instructed Foreign Minister Oscar Santamaria to demand that the case be clarified.

"It is up to Salvadorans and their institutions to evaluate the judges. Out of national dignity, we must assert our principles and position," he has said.

The Supreme Court of Justice has asked ONUSAL to recant the statement and has announced it will present a diplomatic protest before the United Nations.

Rene Hernandez Valiente, Supreme Court vice president, has described as "reckless and baseless" the report drafted by ONUSAL accusing 50 judges.

"We demand that (ONUSAL) rectify its words, for they are inaccurate. We do not accept that the information conveyed by ONUSAL constitutes any proof of corruption," Hernandez Valiente has said.

As for ONUSAL's charges the Court has been "reluctant" to punish any judge, Hernandez has said they would rather be called whatever they have been called than be described as "irresponsible and baseless."

Baseless Report

Supreme Court Magistrate Enrique Argumedo has told EL DIARIO DE HOY there is no evidence to issue any dismissal although the ONUSAL report has accused 50 judges.

Argumedo has said ONUSAL has based its report only on accusations gathered against the judges during a three-year period, but no major investigation was conducted to prove them.

"There are many accusations in the report that do not fall under our jurisdiction, for instance, cases regarding overcrowded jails."

According to Argumedo, many of the accusations are repetitive for different judges, and this point is why the list is long.

The magistrate has said 45 accusations have been filed against 27 trial court judges, and 35 more against 25 justices of the peace. This point indicates there are 80 accusations against 52 judges, including those judges who were penalized last week.

"We Are Not Convicting Anyone:" Ter-Horts

ONUSAL Director Enrique Ter-Horts rushed to meet with Foreign Minister Oscar Santamaria and Magistrate Hernandez Valiente yesterday to clarify his statement.

"ONUSAL is neither convicting anyone nor investigating the judicial branch," the Venezuelan diplomat said as he left the meeting held at the Court installations. "We are only conveying information which we have received and on which we have been able to somewhat follow up."

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According to Ter-Horts, his office has not evaluated the judges, but it has only ordered and sent to the Court the accusations gathered to help in the judicial purge.

Ter-Horts justified the report by saying the purge and perfecting of the judicial system constitute a part of the peace agreements and the recommendations made by the Truth Commission, which definitely fall under ONUSAL's jurisdiction.

He conceded, however, it is up to the Court to evaluate the judges. "This point we have never questioned," he said.

Calderon Sol Views Death Squad Investigation

PA0411143994 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Nov 94

[Report by Valmore Parada on news conference with Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol with unidentified reporters in San Salvador on 3 November; from the "YSU Radio News" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Armando Calderon Sol has called on the people to come forth and present evidence of the existence of death squads, if in fact they are still operating in the country. During a news conference, the president said: I believe we must continue with the investigations to get to the bottom of the issue and confirm the existence of organized armed groups capable of waging attacks in the country.

[Calderon Sol] "We Salvadorans cannot say we enjoy democracy or that we have a legal system or a de jure state if we do not completely eradicate even the possibility of their existence. We must, therefore, get to work. This is a joint effort of all Salvadorans and mainly the authorities. It must also be an effort by all Salvadorans, because we are building this new El Salvador together. We cannot be satisfied until we get to the bottom of this issue.

In this effort, we must ask everyone who has evidence; those who can testify; those who can contribute anything, any form of evidence—in other words, all of those who have evidence must contribute with whatever evidence they have to help with this investigation. They have an obligation, as do the authorities, the National Civilian Police, and the departments of the Prosecutor General's Office, all of which have been working very hard and continue to try to find a way of getting to the bottom of the issue. It is somewhat difficult, but we must continue to work, and we cannot discard the possibility as of yet.

[Reporter] "You say the death squads are [words indistinct]. How will this affect agent [name indistinct]?

[Calderon Sol] "He was not arrested for that reason. He was arrested for libel. He made accusations against a specific person without proof."

Concerning other pending issues related to the peace accords, Calderon Sol again promised to review and comply with each and every commitment by April 1995, when the UN Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL] are scheduled to complete their mission.

[Calderon Sol] "It is no longer possible for El Salvador to go on like this. We cannot continue to keep trying to comply with the agreements for the rest of our lives. It is the will of this administration and this president to conclude the process as soon as possible. You may remember that we said when we took office that we are going to disband the National Police, and we will indeed do this. We are working on this now, and we expect to tell you in December that we are going to bolster the National Civilian Police and that we no longer have this redundancy. We are going to review the Peace Treaty, and we will do so agreement by agreement in an effort to fully comply with each one of them. We are determined to complete the process by April 30."

Regarding the sensitive issue of land transfers, the president reported that efforts have been increased and that there are now no problems affecting loans.

[Calderon Sol] "We want to make an extra effort in the areas of land transfers, loans, and to promote the benefits all across the country, thereby getting everyone involved in this grand task of national reconstruction, productivity, developing El Salvador, and bringing about better living conditions for all. The process is not at a standstill. The loans have been granted according to the type of crops. Credits have been granted. In February, when the land must be prepared for planting, there will be new loans. There are no loans for harvesting crops at this time. This money has already been earmarked and delivered. There will be more loans for the new crops next year."

A UN report, made public by Enrique Ter Horst, UN ambassador to El Salvador, says 1,006 people have received land titles since mid-August through the Land Distribution Program. Despite several measures implemented to expedite redistribution, only 32 percent of the 40,648 requests filed by potential beneficiaries have received attention.

Guatemala

Government, URNG Return to Negotiation Table

PA0511152194 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Nov 94 p 79

[FBIS Translated Text] Government and URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] delegates have returned to the negotiations table after a recess to reach an agreement on the identity and rights of the Indian people.

The meeting is being held at the Issemin Vacation Center, which is the property of the Mexican Government, located in Bravo Valle, Mexico State, 170 km south of the Federal District.

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The delegations held intense meetings during the recess to analyze the work document delivered by moderator Jean Arnault. The document contains the agreements and disagreements reached during the meeting's first phase.

The delegations refrained from giving details of that document, arguing they had agreed not to disclose its contents.

The government delegation is chaired by Hector Rosada Granados, accompanied by attorney Antonio Arenales and Generals Julio Calconi T. and Carlos Pineda Carranza.

Meanwhile, the URNG delegation is coordinated by Commander Gaspar Ilom, alias (Rodrigo Asturias), accompanied by Commanders Rolando Moran, Pablo Monsato, and Carlos Gonzalez.

Also present were Dr. Francisco Villagran, Luz Mendez Gonzalez, Miguel Angel Sandoval, and Dr. Luis Beker, from the political-diplomatic commission of the guerrilla organization.

Moderator Jean Arnault has said he would hold a news conference at 1000 today during which details of the meeting would be given.

No Agreement Reached

PA0611192994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0220 GMT 6 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Valle de Bravo, 5 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Sources close to the negotiations have confirmed the Guatemalan Government and guerrillas held another round of negotiations today without reaching a tangible agreement on the identity and rights of the Indian peoples.

The sources have stated the parties stressed during today's session, which was held in this Mexico state tourist resort, their commitment to continuing the negotiations, but they admitted they have different views on the issue.

While government Representative Hector Rosada Granados said reaching an agreement on the issue by the conclusion of these negotiations, which will end on 9 November, is possible, the guerrillas' spokesman, Commander Gaspar Ilom, refused to set a date.

Setting a date "misleads a process which could be prolonged or expedited and which needs time. The important thing here is not setting a date, however, but resolve and a willingness to negotiate seriously and to reach a profound understanding of these negotiations," Ilom stressed.

Representatives of the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) began negotiating on 5 November to settle the issue of identity and rights of the Indian peoples.

Spokesmen from the two delegations agreed at a news conference this issue is very significant for Guatemalan society, which is comprised by 9 million people, 61 percent of whom are Indians.

UN mediator Jean Arnault stressed the need to give the Indian peoples the place they deserve within Guatemalan society and to open new horizons to ensure they will achieve dynamic development.

Ilom said socioeconomic issues, the problem of land, the role of the Army within a democratic society, and constitutional reforms are subjects that still need to be discussed within the core of the negotiations. We will have to discuss the operative core after reaching an agreement on those issues; that is, we will have to discuss the search for political agreements to declare a cease-fire, the guerrilla commander said.

He added: "We will then discuss the conditions for the URNG to rejoin the Guatemalan political life and the agenda to comply with the agreements."

The Guatemalan Government and guerrillas began negotiating in April 1991 in Mexico City to achieve a peace that will end the internal conflict that has lasted for more than 30 years and has triggered huge economic losses for the nation.

Honduras

Foreign Minister Views Topics for Miami Summit

PA0411183594 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Nov 94

[Report by Salomon Salguero on news conference by Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar with unidentified reporters in San Pedro Sula on 3 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Relations Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar yesterday met with San Pedro Sula Mayor Luis Garcia Bustamante to discuss issues related to development projects in the area. Following the meeting, Paz Aguilar told the media that Central America intends to assume a joint position at the upcoming hemispheric summit in Miami, adding that Honduras expects to procure preferential treatment under the framework of the Caribbean Basin Initiative [as heard].

The foreign minister noted that the Central American Parliament [Parlacen] is experiencing some problems, but he added that conditions exist within the organization to overcome the situation. In addition, he expressed his confidence that conditions in Honduras will improve in the years to come. Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar had this to say:

[Begin recording] [Paz Aguilar] The Foreign Ministry is already working on the issue. Central America will adopt

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a joint position, and we expect to obtain concrete benefits for the entire region, especially at this time when the agenda for the 21st century is now being formulated.

[Reporter] Basically, what will Central America request?

[Paz Aguilar] Basically, we will request preferential treatment within the framework of NAFTA. Central America would like to recover the advantages it lost with the Caribbean Basin Initiative, primarily advantages related to textiles and clothing issues. Obviously, these industries have an enormous impact on the country, especially in the northern coastal region.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Paz Aguilar] Particularly as it relates to employment opportunities in the northern region of the country.

[Reporter] How are the border demarcation talks progressing?

[Paz Aguilar] These talks have progressed significantly, and they will resume very soon. The Honduran delegation will be traveling to San Salvador to continue the talks on 11-12 November.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Paz Aguilar] That issue is being handled by the National Honduras Section, a special section within the Binational Commission.

[Reporter] When will there be an definite answer with respect to this issue?

[Paz Aguilar] All of this is being discussed, and it is part of the agenda our specialists are dealing with.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, with respect to Honduran emigrants who, en route the United States, died in Mexico, what steps are being taken by the government to prevent this type of situation from occurring again?

[Paz Aguilar] The Honduran Embassy in Mexico is handling this problem. In terms of long-term policies, we have already pointed out to the U.S authorities that the only way to prevent mass migration by Hondurans or Central Americans is by strengthening the democracies of the region, opening their economies, and promoting regional peace processes. This is where the root of the problem lies, and it explains why our citizens would want to leave Honduras and Central America. They are seeking jobs, education, and better opportunities which, unfortunately, our countries have been unable to provide.

[Reporter] What can you say about the campaign taking place in California with respect to Proposition 187, which is designed to limit access to public education?

[Paz Aguilar] We already have told the U.S. authorities how dangerous it would be to promote a racist and xenophobic campaign against Latin Americans who migrate to the United States. We have pointed out the disturbances that erupted in Los Angeles in 1992—racially motivated disturbances that led to hundreds of millions of dollars in losses.

[Reporter] Will Honduras file a protest with the United States?

[Paz Aguilar] No. What we are doing is adopting goodwill steps, because these issues can only be resolved through a dialogue with the proper U.S. authorities.

[Reporter] What can you say about the questions that have been raised with respect to the elimination of the Parlacen from the international policy forum?

[Paz Aguilar] I am in favor of strengthening the Parlacen. We must avoid certain situations that have developed within the institution. I believe that, in general, institutions are something positive, and that there might be failings among the people that are part it. I also believe conditions exist to overcome the Parlacen's problems. Keep in mind that the Parlacen is an organization designed to develop regional institutionality, Central American integration, and unity between our countries.

[Reporter] What is Honduras' outlook in terms of foreign policies?

[Paz Aguilar] I am quite optimistic about Honduras' future. Our recent admittance to the UN Security Council has meant a lot to the country, and it has given us something that cannot be purchased with money. Neither can the benefits be measured in terms of money. Nevertheless, it can be lost quite easily. The country has gained accolades, credibility, respect, and stability, and a number of benefits will be born of this. We will be receiving more tourism, investments, and so on. I must also add that the country's energy crisis will be resolved in the near future and that coffee prices will improve. Certainly, I see better days ahead for our country and an improvement in the government's efficiency. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Ministry Assails U.S. Envoy's Remarks on Genie Case

PA0411194494 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Nov 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The Nicaraguan Government has denounced statements by U.S. Ambassador John Maisto, who allegedly told a local newspaper that "a situation of impunity prevails in Nicaragua."

Maisto, according to this newspaper, added that the family of Jean-Paul Genie, who was shot dead in October 1990, "is the personification of the impunity that prevails in Nicaragua."

A note from the Foreign Ministry says Dr. Jose Antonio Tijerino, ambassador to the OAS and representative of our country before the Inter-American Court of Justice,

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denounced Maisto's remarks yesterday. Tijerino said in the Genie case the justice system has acted according to the political Constitution and laws of Nicaragua.

Criminal proceedings were initiated, but by order of the Supreme Court, the case was transferred to a military court, which initially upheld the corpus delicti but did not recogonize the individuals charged with the crime. Currently, the case is before the Supreme Court, which must decide on the plaintiff's motion for review by a higher court. The executive branch has respected the decisions of the judicial branch by virtue of the constitutional principle of separation of powers.

Nicaragua, the official note states, has accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights in this case and is appearing before this tribunal, to which it is offering complete cooperation.

Police Investigate Attack on Cuban Embassy

PA0411175494 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Nov 94

[From the "News 2000" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Police are investigating Wednesday's attack against the Cuban Embassy. Experts from the National Police Investigations Directorate are investigating the Wednesday bombing of the Cuban Embassy, which is located in Las Colinas of Managua. A fragmentation grenade exploded against the wall of the Cuban Embassy, alarming embassy personnel. Police say that, so far, they have not determined whether the attack was intended to harm the Cuban mission or was merely a case of a hoodlum tossing a grenade. So far, the National Police have no suspects and no arrests have been made.

Panama

Cuban Rafters Reject Possibility of Return

PA0611195694 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 6 Nov 94 p E-16

[Report by Arnulfo Barroso Watson]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Not even dead will we return to Cuba," stated a group of rafters yesterday when "EL PANAMA AMERICA" interviewed them regarding the possibility of returning to the island. An appeals court overturned the decision on 4 November to suspend the repatriation of Cuban refugees in Guantanamo and Panama.

Pedro Quinonez, a refugee from Camp No. 2, located on the edge of the Canal, said that the United States and Cuba are engaged in a chess game and that they are using the rafters as their pawns.

"I speak on behalf of all the Cubans. We will not return to Cuba, because Castro's repression would be uncontrollable, and it is unfair for us to be repatriated after having risked our lives at sea," Quinonez said.

Thousands of rafters may be repatriated soon following an appeals court decision stating the rafters could be returned to Cuba, because their having been rescued at sea does not guarantee for them the rights established in the U.S. Constitution.

The rafters in Panama have given the U.S. Government a 15 November deadline to establish their migration status or—they threaten—they will escape.

Guillermo Dantes, another rafter, said it was unfair the United States is now turning its back on them with this legal decision after having risked everything to leave the island.

Foreign Ministry To Ask U.S. To 'Decontaminate' Bases

PA0611042794 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Nov 94 p 4A

[Article by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[FBIS Translated Text] Carlos Mendoza, president of the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI), has announced that the Panamanian Government, through its Foreign Ministry, will ask the United States to "decontaminate" all military bases they operate in the country before turning them over to Panama, in compliance with the Panama Canal Treaties.

Mendoza said the government will make the request because cleaning up the bases will be costly, and it does not have the hundreds of millions of dollars that would be required for this task.

He added that Panama is planning ahead because this situation cannot be left unresolved for the year 2000.

Mendoza explained that the contamination of the bases is not the product of someone's ill intentions but is a phenomena that occurred because many things were unknown 40 years ago. He added that the contamination took place not only in Panama but in various parts of the world.

The ARI president said the government is studying the levels of contamination on the bases because, according to the treaties, the United States must turn over the military sites in a clean condition.

He said the purpose of the study is to show the U.S. Government the existing degree of contamination so it can learn about the magnitude of the situation and proceed to clean up the installations.

Mendoza said that once the study is complete a report will be given to Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo so he can submit the request to the U.S. Government through its embassy here as well as through the Panamanian Embassy in Washington.

According to the official, the principal areas of military contamination are the firing ranges and air bases.

The United States maintains 14 military bases in Panama, which they will begin to turn over to Panama in 1995.

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Argentina

Senator Menem Rejects Falklands Sovereignty for Indemnity

PY0411203994 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Nov 94 p 3

[Telephone interview with Provisional Senate President Eduardo Menem by LA PRENSA reporter Ana Gerschenson; in London on 2 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gerschenson] What did you discuss with British legislators?

[Menem] We discussed the status of bilateral relations.

[Gerschenson] Did you discuss the possibility of an official visit by [President] Carlos Menem in the near future?

[Menem] No, we did not discuss this issue... Nevertheless, as the highest-ranking Argentine official to have officially visited the United Kingdom since 1982, I believe this is another step in this direction.

[Gerschenson] I imagine you discussed a poll that was recently conducted in the Malvinas Islands to determine if the Kelpers would agree to sell their sovereignty to the Argentine Government ...

[Menem] British legislators asked me about the accuracy of this information; if it was true that Argentina was willing to make this type of proposal.

[Gerschenson] And what did you respond?

[Menem] That of course we would not. This is a dispute over sovereignty, which does not have a commercial value.

[Gerschenson] Foreign Minister [Guido] Di Tella does not share your opinion ...

[Menem] I am telling you about my talks with the British. After the islands have been returned, it will be quite another thing to indemnify the islanders for their [property] improvements—if we are in a position to do so. That is quite another matter. This is included in the civil law. However, it is not possible to talk about an indemnity to have the islands returned to us. I categorically deny the possibility of purchasing sovereignty.

[Gerschenson] Is this your personal stance or is it also the Argentine Government's stance?

[Menem] I am talking for myself, and this is the stance of Congress. I am talking as Senate president. In no way would we accept such a proposal.

[Gerschenson] Di Tella noted that, if the proposal is accepted, it must be approved by Congress ...

[Menem] You already know my stance if it is submitted to Congress...

[Gerschenson] Malvinas Governor David Thatam has said he believes this type of proposal is amoral. What is your opinion?

[Menem] I repeat: The Argentine Government did not raise this proposal.

[Gerschenson] Who ordered the poll? Who would be interested in finding out about the Kelpers' opinion about indemnity?

[Menem] I have not the slightest idea...

[Gerschenson] Concerning the oil issue, did you know a bill has already been voted on in the Malvinas Islands and a decision has been made to sell licenses?

[Menem] The Argentine Government will never accept the unilateral issuance of licenses. These are Argentine territories. All countries and companies will be told of the Argentine Government's disagreement.

[Gerschenson] And what is your proposal to regain the islands?

[Menem] My proposal is to pursue negotiations with the British, to reconcile positions, because this has been determined by the UN Decolonization Committee.

[Gerschenson] Never indemnity?

[Menem] Never.

[Gerschenson] Will you challenge Foreign Minister Di Tella? He has openly accepted this possibility.

[Menem] No official proposal has been raised. The constitutional reform clearly establishes that the Malvinas Islands are part of our national territory. If they are part of our national territory, it is not possible to raise a proposal to regain them.

Meets UK's Hurd in London

PY0411203794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2111 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Nov (NA)—It was reported in Buenos Aires that Senator Eduardo Menem today told British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd that the Malvinas Islands inhabitants "must end their hostility toward Argentines" and allow a settlement of the conflict over the archipelago's sovereignty.

During his last day of official activities in the United Kingdom, Menem met Hurd and Hurd's deputy, Foreign Office Minister David Davis. They spoke for a long time. Menem pointed out that the Kelpers must assume a more flexible attitude.

Menem indicated: "It is difficult to understand how flights from countries like Chile, with stopovers in Argentina en route to the islands, are not allowed to pick up passengers in our country."

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Menem confirmed that Argentina has a democratic government and diplomatic relations with the entire world. He said: "We therefore do not understand why the islanders do not allow our entry."

As expected, the British officials took note of Menem's claim, without a word.

London newspapers and British officials again became interested in the Malvinas Islands issue following reports on the Argentine Government's alleged goal of indemnifying the Kelpers in exchange for recognition of sovereignty.

During Menem's meeting with Hurd and Davis, however, this issue was avoided. They basically discussed bilateral trade relations: A concession has been awarded to a British company to reshape the port of Buenos Aires, a project involving an investment of $180 million.

Foreign Minister Cited on Nonproliferation Treaty

PY0511021194 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 2 Nov 94 p 3

[Article by Maria Helena Tachinardi, in Buenos Aires]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella on 1 November reiterated his country's willingness to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Teaty (NPT) before April 1995, when the Treaty will be revised. Despite being undermined by the failure of NPT signatory countries like [North] Korea and Iraq to meet their commitment to eliminate nuclear proliferation, the Argentine Government deems it important to endorse it, along with other countries, in order to "strengthen security measures."

During his tour of Eastern Europe, Brazilian President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso said he would study the possibility of signing the NPT, which Itamaraty has thus far considered discriminatory. This signal was very positively received by Argentine diplomats last week. [passage omitted]

Brazil's Cardoso on Integration, Ends Visit

PY0411141194 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2258 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Nov (TELAM)—Brazilian President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso said today that there is no possibility that the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] customs union, scheduled for 1 January 1995, will be postponed.

"We want to maintain the schedule, and President (Carlos) Menem has just ratified Argentina's decision to comply with the schedule," Cardoso said after lunching with Menem at the Brazilian Embassy.

"We are aware of the social consequences of integration and have spoken about this with President Menem, but when problems arise we will have the political capability to resolve them," Cardoso said.

He said: "Our future is one of great friendship and prosperity. Relations between Argentina and Brazil are improving every day."

Cardoso traveled this afternoon to Uruguay after a 2-day visit to Argentina. Before leaving, he held a news conference in which he denied any "pressure" in naming his cabinet.

He admitted that he may disagree regarding Argentina's style of rapprochement with the United States, but recalled that Brazil is also interested in participating in developed country forums.

The president-elect said Brazil's relations with the United States "come within the framework of the new order of peace and world cooperation."

He said: "Brazil accepts the multilateralism that was agreed upon within GATT. Our trade relations are fluid and we have no problems."

He failed to define his position on the possibility of Argentina obtaining a permanent representation on the UN Security Council.

Cardoso said: "When the United Nations charter is reformed, there will be space for Brazil and Argentina to cooperate, not fight."

Cardoso denied that Chile and Argentina could be the economic model for his future government, saying: "Each country has its own characteristics. Brazil must achieve solid bases for financing social actions."

He did promise to follow the Argentine model to encourage a reform of the Constitution in his country, saying: "I believe we can achieve a political consensus like the ones achieved by Menem and [former President Raul] Alfonsin on a topic that is very dear to public opinion."

During the last day of his visit, Cardoso met with Raul Alfonsin, president of the UCR [Radical Civic Union]; Carlos Chacho Alvarez, president of the Grand Front; and Jose Octavio Bordon, a Mendoza Province senator.

The visitor earlier lunched with Menem at the Olivos residence [as received] with politicians, businessmen, and personalities from the cultural sector.

Cardoso departed for Uruguay in his private plane at 1715 [2015 GMT] from the Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport.

Menem Reaffirms Confidence in Mercosur

PY0411224794 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0124 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Nov (TELAM)—Speaking on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the Argentine Union of Construction Enterprises (UAC), Argentine President Carlos Menem reaffirmed that Mercosur [Common Market of the South] will start operating on 1 January 1995.

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The president told some 300 construction and related trades businessmen that "Mercosur will definitely start operating on 1 January 1995, when the customs union and the common external tariff will go into effect."

Menem admitted that certain issues could be delayed to "eliminate unfairness, but "this should be accomplished through sustained dialogue between the member countries of Mercosur, which Chile and Bolivia should join later on." [quotation marks as received]

Menem said: "It is possible that a free trade zone between the European Union and Mercosur will be established before the one stretching from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego."

He added: "We are working together to build Argentina up, and the construction industry, as well as all the other industries, have my entire confidence in this endeavor."

Menem promised to "reactivate the construction industry through the enactment of modern labor laws. More flexible laws will allow us to lower costs in order to improve quality and competitiveness."

He stated: "I agree with almost everything my friend (Francisco) Macri [UAC chairman] has said, because our model has not lost any of its strength; our economic model is stronger than ever."

Menem added: "We have gained ground, even though there could be a shortfall as far as social welfare is concerned. We should bear in mind, however, that when this administration took over, the government owed 12 billion [currency not specified] to social welfare funds."

He emphasized: "We have paid that debt. We have honored our domestic debt and also our foreign debt, because we have reached agreements, and once we had clear rules of the game, we were able to grow at the same rate as the most powerful nations on earth."

He said: "Production and consumption are up. There is less poverty, although there may be some people who exaggerate this problem. The number of poor people has decreased from 37 percent in 1989 to only 11 percent at present."

Menem acknowedged that "unemployment has grown slightly, but that is because modern technological and scientific methods were applied to production."

He added: "The public works plan and the housing plan will help us overcome this unemployment problem, which is not as serious as in other countries."

Cavallo Addresses European Businessmen on Economy

PY0411152894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1958 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 3 Nov (AFP-NA)—In a special televised transmission, Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo tonight told some 100 businessmen of the Europe-Argentine Club that Argentina is receiving a strong injection of capital, thus demonstrating the confidence the country inspires in investors.

Cavallo spoke for nearly 50 minutes, reviewing the situation of the Argentine economy during a direct televised "premiere." He also spoke about relations with the European countries, especially with France, Italy, and Belgium.

The minister stated that the injection of foreign capital is pushing the investment rate up more quickly than planned. Consequently Argentina does not view the current deficit in its current account of the balance of payments and the trade deficit as a danger but as a demonstration of confidence that is backed by an important flow of capital.

Thus, business is achieving increasing levels of productivity, Cavallo stated, which explains the increase in exports.

Cavallo said: "Our policy is directed at increasing internal savings, and we believe that by expanding our economy, and thus our exports—through greater internal savings—we will manage to finance all the required investment for growth." [sentence as received]

The Argentine minister said his administration is convinced that "if we continue the policy of removing the regulations that block productivity and if we continue to reduce tax levels, we will increase the demand for labor to such an extent that new jobs will be created."

Cavallo asked those enterprises and nations that invested to continue to invest in Argentina, saying: "Those who helped to finance and restructure our foreign debt must continue to believe in our country."

The minister justified this need for confidence because "management is demonstrating seriousness in dealing with problems and capability in finding solutions."

He stressed that Argentines—after suffering hyperinflation, stagnation, and economic retrogression—have become a very mature people who recovered their common sense and who can immediately distinguish between pure demagogic diatribe and a sincere attempt to resolve the problems that affect the country.

Menem Warns About 'Interests' in Subversion

PY0411232494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1958 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Nov (NA)—President Carlos Menem warned this afternoon that "big interests" want subversion "installed again in Argentina," and identified "drug trafficking" as one of those interests.

Menem held an unexpected news conference at the Olivos residence this afternoon. The president said: "One of the methods drug traffickers use to install themselves in different countries is through subversion," as occurs in other places in Latin America.

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Bolivia

Police Upset by Charges of Involvement in Aborted Escape

PY0411134794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2146 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] La Paz, 3 Nov (EFE)—Sources close to the Bolivian Police today told EFE that the institution is disgusted over an official report on the alleged involvement of high-ranking police officers in the aborted escape attempt by a group of drug traffickers from the Chonchocoro prison in La Paz.

The sources added that Interior Minister German Quiroga has been asked to give a public explanation.

The incident took place on 1 November, when a group of Colombian drug traffickers tried to free about 20 Bolivian and Colombian colleagues from the Chonchocoro prison in the high barren plateau surrounding La Paz, with help from abroad.

The breakout was thwarted by members of the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN) and—according to Minister Quiroga—Chonchocoro prison director Colonel Angel Moncada was replaced because it is believed he is involved in the thwarted escape.

On that same day 14 people were arrested in Viacha, a town near Chonchocoro prison, 40 km from La Paz.

Col. Moncada was not arrested as reported at first, nor dismissed, but was replaced for security reasons according to what Bolivian Police sources told EFE. The sources said that, according to preliminary investigations, Moncada, his family, and the police guards were to have been killed during the attack on the prison.

Moncada's arrest was also denied by his family who confirmed that he returned home on Wednesday, apparently free of any suspicion and that he then wrote a report at his commanders' request.

The charges against Moncada have upset Bolivian Police officers, who have asked the high command to explain.

In response to this request, Colonel Edgar Alcocer was appointed director and Reynaldo Vara deputy director of the Chonchocoro prison. The two new prison officials were sworn in today.

Moreover, FELCN agents continue to investigate the aborted breakout. They believe Colombian trafficker Celimo Andrade, who is held at the Chonchocoro prison, is the key to the aborted attempt.

The sources reported that among the group arrested in Viacha on 1 November, are seven Colombian mercenaries who established a network in Bolivia to free their fellow countrymen.

Most of the Colombians arrested in Chonchocoro are believed to belong to the network of the Colombian Medellin and Cali cartels.

In addition to those arrested in Viacha, another six people were arrested on 2 November in Santa Cruz, 851 km east of La Paz.

In Beni department, in the Amazon region, Mobil Police Unit for Rural Areas (UMOPAR) agents have been unable to find the aircraft in which, according to Minister Quiroga, the Chonchocoro prisoners were to have been evacuated.

Government Confident on Garcia Meza's Extradition

PY0511010594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2238 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] La Paz, 4 Nov (EFE)—Following an initial reaction of surprise, Bolivian Government officials today expressed their confidence that the proceedings to extradite former de facto President Luis Garcia Meza will end up bringing him back to the country, notwithstanding the possible delay.

Jaime Aparicio, Foreign Ministry international relations secretary, today told EFE that "we are fully confident that the process will end with the extradition of Garcia Meza." He added that the Brazilian court decision to admit Garcia Meza's lawyers' request "will not affect the depth of the issue."

An official communique expresses the government's intention to "continue legal actions with the Brazilian Supreme Court" to attain Garcia Meza's extradition so as to fulfill the sentence issued by the Supreme Court.

Government House sources told EFE that the Bolivian Embassy in Brasilia has received instructions to submit a request to the Brazilian Supreme Court to discuss the issue in the next meeting, probably on Wednesday, 9 November.

The Brazilian Supreme Court today decided to suspend Garcia Meza's extradition in compliance with an appeal submitted by his lawyers, arguing that the statute of limitations applies to the crimes for which he has been sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment without amnesty.

By mid-October, the Brazilian Supreme Court agreed, with only one dissenting vote, to hand over Garcia Meza at the request of the Bolivian Foreign Ministry.

Garcia Meza was arrested in March 1994 in Sao Paulo carrying false focuments and was later taken to Brasilia, where the Supreme Court ordered his extradition.

A few days ago Garcia Meza suffered a heart problem, and the media reported that he was also suffering from depression at the prospect of going to prison in the Bolivian altiplano, almost 4,000 meters high.

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Sources at the Bolivian Foreign Ministry told EFE that the petition to postpone the extradition "is the desperate reaction of a drowning man." They added that it is "unthinkable" that a Supreme Court as prestigious as the Brazilian court "could go back" on its decision.

Government Minister German Quiroga explained that the extradition procedures relative to Garcia Meza had concluded, but that the Brazilian court decision accepting Garcia's request will require new procedures to attain his extradition to Bolivia.

The requirements for Garcia Meza's extradition include the presentation of a medical certificate, which is demanded by the military police where Garcia Meza is being held.

The Bolivian Supreme Court, in a decision that cannot be reviewed or appealed, sentenced Garcia Meza to 30 years in prison without right of pardon on charges of sedition, murder, and crimes of an economic nature.

According to Bolivian laws, the Supreme Court sentence must be carried out and a statute of limitations does not apply to the crimes for which he was sentenced until the sentence has been served.

The Supreme Court sentenced Garcia Meza to 30 years in prison on April 1993 after a judicial process labeled a "responsibility" trial, which lasted seven years and became the longest political trial in Bolivian history.

Brazil

Justice Minister Rejects U.S. Congressmen's Criticism

PY0511033794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2236 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 4 Nov (EFE)—Brazilian Justice Minister Alexandre Dupeyrat today rejected charges made by 155 U.S. congressmen and a U.S. humanitarian organization about the death threats that missionaries and human rights activists receive in the northern region of Brazil.

Commenting on those who signed the charges that were presented to Attorney General Aristides Junqueira and himself, Minister Dupeyrat said "they should concentrate on their country's problems instead of concerning themselves with ours." He added: "They have many problems, and some of them are even more serious than ours."

The congressmen and the humanitarian organization "Americas Watch" have asked Junqueira and Dupeyrat to guarantee the lives of three Catholic priests who defend the rights of peasants living in Para State, in the northern region of Brazil, which is one of the most violent regions of the country. They also requested that the life of a councilman be guaranteed. All of them had received death threats.

The threatened priests are Ricardo Rezende, Henrides Rosiers, and Benedito Costa; the councilman is Elpidio Silva.

Humberto Espinola, coordinator of the National Council for the Defense of Human Rights, which depends on the Justice Ministry, pointed out that to offer guarantees for the lives of only three priests, as "Americas Watch" and the U.S. congressmen are requesting, does not help end violence resulting from conflicts over land possession.

Espinola said that the Federal Police do not have enough agents to protect all threatened people living in Para State. He said that it is up to the Justice Ministry to study effective measures to discourage violence in Para state.

Economic Cooperation Subject for Americas Summit

PY0411134494 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 1 Nov 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Agenda for the Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting of 34 presidents and chiefs of state that will take place in Miami in early December—the Americas Summit—will have a more constructive slant. At first the meeting was to have had a more political overtone, but we are currently observing that the new economic reality of the continent has come to the forefront as result of Washington's new perceptions of a future free trade zone among the Americas.

The current atmosphere is, to a certain extent, influenced by the negotiated solution to the Haitian situation and the reinstatement of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Although the new Port-au-Prince Government is a long way from attaining an organized government system that will allow it to manage without U.S. troops, there no is longer any reason for diplomatic friction between the United States and the Latin American governments, most of which opposed intervention in Haiti.

Likewise, the understanding that helped overcome the impasse between the United States and Cuba regarding the disorderly emigration of Cubans has opened a communications channel—albeit narrow—between the two countries.

With a lighter political agenda, the original Americas Initiative launched by former U.S. President George Bush has gained renewed momentum from a more practical point of view. Following the establishment of NAFTA, which offered Mexico eventual integration to the United States and Canadian markets, several countries of the continent began to earnestly seek to join NAFTA, which resulted in vague signals of an opening.

Although the most interested countries have varied reasons for joining NAFTA, they did not conceal their fear of a negative effect on their economies. The Central

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American and Caribbean countries base their claims on their strong trade ties with the United States. Chile, which has been on its own since it left the Andean Pact, considers it more feasible to directly join NAFTA instead of its neighboring blocs.

As already pointed out, instead of having a scattering effect, NAFTA helps to reinforce regional blocs and associations like the Common Market of the South (Mercosur), the Andean Pact, the Central American Common Market (CACM), and the Caribbean Common Market (Caricom). The Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), which includes the Andean Pact and Mercosur countries with the participation of Chile and Mexico, has acquired new scope given that it could serve as a bridge to NAFTA. The concept of the South American Free Trade Zone (ALCSA) appeared at the same time under the sponsorship of the four Mercosur country members.

Faced with these Latin American diplomatic moves and negotiations, President Bill Clinton has evolved toward a new concept of what the Americas Summit—summoned last year by U.S. Vice President Al Gore—should be. Instead of individual, country-by-country negotiations for an eventual association with NAFTA, it now seems more practical that negotiations should be carried out with already existing economic blocs. It is really far easier to attain integration by establishing ties with archipelagoes of countries, rather than with islands.

One of the most efficient ways to attain this is to negotiate with a bloc, like the Mercosur is doing through its "four plus one" system with the United States. At the same time, laws on investments, patents rights, the elimination of non-tariff barriers, and the free trade zones are being harmonized.

Of course there will be obstacles to this process, but it will probably evolve much faster than one would imagine all the time the countries of the hemisphere increasingly accept free market mechanisms under the shelter of democracy.

Investments in Cuba, Cuban Ties With Russia Viewed

PY0411140994 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Nov 94 p A20

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana—Following a meeting with Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas, a group of 25 Brazilian entrepreneurs showed interest on 2 November in investing in Cuba in the oil, agricultural, pharmaceutical, and communication industries. Cabrisas asserted that the current good level of bilateral relations provide the "natural conditions" to guarantee a larger Brazilian presence in the Cuban economy. One Brazilian diplomatic source has stated that Brazil plans to significantly expand trade with Cuba, which in 1993 totaled $30 million. Paulo Soares, Itamaraty deputy director for trade promotion, confirmed that Brazil wants deeper relations with Cuba and is currently studying a joint plan of action.

While Havana is trying to strengthen trade relations with Brazil, exchange agreements with Russia seemed to have rapidly deteriorated. In an interview with a Moscow newspaper, Oleg Davidov—Russian minister for trade relations—charged Cuba with selling to other countries the sugar it should have sent to Russia in payment for 1.5 million tonnes of oil already delivered. On 31 October, Moscow officially suspended contracts with Cuba due to lack of payment. In accordance with an accord signed this year, Cuba should supply Russia with 1 million tonnes of sugar in exchange for 2.5 million tonnes of oil. Davidov said, however, that Havana has sent Russia only 500,000 tonnes of sugar and no longer has reserves to finish paying its debt. The Russian minister said: "The lack of reserves became evident after we received from Cuba a shipment of Brazilian sugar, which has a lower price on the international market."

Extradition of Bolivian Former Dictator Suspended

PY0511004594 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Federal Court [STF] has issued a provisional resolution suspending the extradition of former Bolivian dictator Luis Garcia Meza.

STF Justice Celso de Mello has signed the resolution suspending a decree issued by President Itamar Franco ordering that General Luis Garcia Meza be turned over to the Bolivian Government.

The decision was reported through a telex to the president and to Justice Minister Alexandre Dupeyrat and Foreign Minister Celso Amorim.

The provisional resolution was requested through a petition for a court injunction filed by the lawyers of the former Bolivian president.

President Itamar Franco signed the decree on 31 October, 12 days after the STF granted the extradition request.

President Franco, however, signed the decree before the Supreme Federal Court decision was published by the judicial branch gazette. This justified the action by Meza's lawyers, who also want the Court to look into the statute of limitations applying to the crime attributed to Garcia Meza.

When it granted the extradition petition, the STF did not consider the sentence by the Bolivian courts. Justice Marco Aurelio was the only one who opposed the request for extradition.

Police Target Rio de Janeiro Traffickers

PY0511003394 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The first measures to fight organized crime in Rio de Janeiro might be announced today.

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Brigade General Roberto Jucurtha Camara Senna, commander of the antiviolence operation in the state, has been meeting with Governor Nilo Batista at Guanabara Palace since 1700. They are debating one of the first measures of the plan for joint federal and state government action: The replacement of a group of police superintendents involved with organized crime. The police are investigating charges of illegal acquisition of wealth lodged against those superintendents.

According to reports released by the press over the past few days, the Army already has a list of superintendents to be replaced by military personnel, such as the case of the Alagoas military police. Civil Police Secretary Mario Covas has refused to comment on the reports.

Concerning the military police, the institution's press office has reiterated that Colonel Carlos Mario Nazaret Cerqueira, commander of the military police, has ruled out the possibility of his officers being involved with drug trafficking.

The highway police have implemented a control operation on the Niteroi-Rio de Janeiro bridge to prevent traffickers from escapping to the interior of the state.

Traffickers are reportedly escaping from the city before the start of the military operation, and they might be hiding in houses in the lakes region or in hills surrounding neighboring cities.

The police were particularly interested in finding Ernaldo Pinto Medeiros, aka UE, the trafficker who currently has the largest number of ghettos under his command.

However, no trafficker has been found. The armed forces have not yet joined the operation on the highways, but the Army has begun an investigation into the murder of Lieutenant Marcos Paulo Lisboa, who was killed by two men in a Bento Ribeiro area last night.

According to the police, it was not a holdup. The Eastern Military Command wants to know whether the murder has anything to do with the start of the antiviolence operation.

Meanwhile, the Minas Gerais police have set up checkpoints in an effort to prevent Rio de Janeiro traffickers from entering the state.

The military police and the federal highway police continue to set up checkpoints on the main highways joining Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Espirito Santo.

The objective of the so-called Border Operation is to prevent escaping Rio de Janeiro traffickers from entering Minas Gerais.

Up until noon today, military police checkpoints had searched 2,000 vehicles and 140 buses.

According to the Minas Gerais military police, no one was arrested and no drugs or arms were seized during the operation, which began on 31 October.

The operation is also being carried out at small, medium, and large airports throughout the Minas Gerais border areas.

In Juiz de Fora, a town that is close to the border with Rio de Janeiro, two military police platoons have set up checkpoints in 18 border spots, which are being guarded by heavily armed policemen.

In Espirito Santo, the military police have evaluated the results of the war and peace operation. Since the past weekend, 40 arms—pistols, revolvers, and shotguns—have been seized. The members of a gang of Rio de Janeiro criminals, who held up a supermarket in Caxoeiro do Itapemirim, were reportedly arrested.

The military police continue to operate checkpoints on the highways leading to Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, and Minas Gerais, in order to prevent Rio de Janeiro criminals from entering Espirito Santo.

In Sao Paulo, the police have taken action to prevent the Rio traffickers from entering the state.

The 70,000 Sao Paulo military policemen are on alert to prevent the Rio de Janeiro criminal organization from settling in Sao Paulo.

The police, however, do not believe that Rio criminals will come to Sao Paulo to escape the antidrug siege that the Armed Forces are carrying out in Rio de Janeiro.

The results of the highway checkpoint operation, which is being implemented in the borders that are common to both states—especially in the Paraiba valley—have been considered poor. In fact, only four revolvers and 11 cars were seized, while nobody was reported arrested.

The military police added that investigations have not yet confirmed that one of the main Red Command leaders has already come to the Sao Paulo capital.

Chile

Official Views Mercosur, Integration Issues

PY0711115094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1534 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Santiago, 4 Nov (EFE)—Juan Salazar, director of the Chilean Foreign Ministry International Economic Relations Department, has stated that Mercosur [Common Market of the South] has extended the tariff preferences to member countries of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and Chile because "it was not in a position to negotiate."

Salazar, who leads the Chilean negotiations for a free trade association with Mercosur, explained that the

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integration agreement still has some internal problems to solve, such as customs unification and a common foreign tariff.

In this context, Salazar said that it is not likely the agreement with Mercosur will be signed this year, and added that the extension of the tariff benefits until 15 June 1995 will allow negotiations within a climate of greater tranquillity.

The tariff preferences Chile originally negotiated with Mercosur member countries within the context of ALADI was to expire on 31 December 1994, and they represent 40 percent of the trade with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, the Mercosur members.

Manuel Valencia, director of the Foreign Ministry Bilateral Economic Affairs Department, has confirmed that the third round of negotiations between Chile and Mercosur will be held in Montevideo on 14 November 1994.

He said that the essential differences between Chile and the subregional pact lie in the deadlines for the list of tariffs that must be lifted, although he admitted that Chile is willing to make the goals more flexible and to extend the transition periods of some lists to reach a zero tariff.

In remarks published today, 4 November, by the newspaper EL MERCURIO, Valencia reported that, concerning the products affected by the tariff preferences which have been negotiated within ALADI and which are considered "historical patrimony," Mercosur has proposed to begin with a minimum tariff lifting ceiling of 40 percent, while Chile wants 50 percent.

The other pending matter is the multilateralization of the tariff preferences, which implies that the benefits granted by Chile to one Mercosur member must be extended to the other three partners of the group.

The treaty Chile and Mercosur are negotiating includes, in addition to the list of the "historical patrimony," a list of products for a general lifting of tariffs, another list of sensitive products, and one of exceptions.

Leftist Leaders Dissolve Leftist Democratic Party

PY0411140394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2057 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Santiago, 2 Nov (EFE)—The top leaders of the Chilean Leftist Democratic Party (PDI)—which was created in 1990 by ex-Communist militants as an alternative to orthodox Marxism—today signed a document dissolving the party, putting an end to this experience, and giving its militants freedom of action.

The document was signed by party leader Fanny Pollarollo, who announced she is joining the Socialist Party; Secretary General Antonio Leal, who is joining the Party for Democracy (PPD); and by other leaders.

The decision was made after the party was unable to get the endorsement of 35,000 people—the requirement to register the party officially—and because in the latest congressional elections the PDI failed to get the necessary 5 percent of the votes to remain as a political party.

Announcing the resolution, the party leaders said the PDI fulfilled its mission of gathering all the sectors of the democratic left, and of establishing a position and a leftist style in the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, which is governing the country.

The PDI, which comprised a group of intellectuals who left the Communist Party of Chile because it supported the ultraleftist armed groups, joined the government coalition, while its former colleagues labeled them "traitors and opportunists."

The Communist Party of Chile, one of the most important in Latin America, continues to support orthodox Marxism, and this position represented a growing loss of political influence and popular representation, and has kept the party out of congressional representatives since the return of democracy in Chile in 1990.

Colombia

Drug Cartel 'Ambassador,' Others Arrested in Spain

PA0511165994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1150 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid, 5 nov (EFE)—Colombian citizen Cesar Arango, the alleged "ambassador" of the Medellin Cartel in Europe, was arrested by the Spanish police in the northeastern town of Caldes de Montbui (Barcelona), the newspaper LA VANGUARDIA reported today, Saturday.

Arango, 39 years old, was arrested by drug agents on 3 November at a luxury residence, thus ending an investigation which lasted two and a half years.

The alleged drug trafficker, who was arrested with his wife, Marleni Chaquea, is considered the right hand man of Medellin Cartel leader Fabio Ochoa in Europe.

According to police sources, the police operation represents one of the harshest blows dealt to the Medellin Cartel in Europe, because Arango was reportedly in charge of introducing large amounts of cocaine that arrived at the Port of Barcelona (northeast) hidden in containers.

Arango is also considered the man responsible for the distribution of this drug throughout Europe, mainly in France, and an important man in the organization's money "laundering" operations.

The alleged trafficker was detained in Madrid in 1986 with 6 kg of cocaine in his possession, and he resolved after leaving prison, according to LA VANGUARDIA,

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to touch the drug directly never again, and he began his "ascent" within the organization.

The police's "Operation Emperor" allowed the arrest of eight more alleged members of the organization led by Arango: Benito Sanchez; Armando Jose Espinoza; Gloria Urrutia; Marotza Atala Figueroa; Pilar Figueroa; Jose Maria Rios; Alicia Cordero; and Monica Cordero.

Different estates owned by the Medellin Cartel's alleged European chief were searched and seized during the raid, including three houses, two stores, three luxury vehicles, 25 million pesetas ($200,000) in different currencies, and two gold ingots.

The judge in charge of the case also ordered the confiscation of abundant documents regarding bank transfers, accounts, and trips, and much jewelry, precious stones, and a pistol were found during the search of a bank safe deposit box.

The operation, which ended yesterday, is a continuation of the large-scale raid carried out in Europe and North American since June under the code name "Margarita" according to LA VANGUARDIA.

Justice Minister on Samper Recommendations for Summit

PA0611162794 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1750 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 4 Nov (DPA)—It was learned today Colombian President Ernesto Samper will urge his colleagues attending the Summit of the Americas in Miami on the need for the countries of the area to sign a convention condemning and preventing money "laundering" obtained by drug traffickers.

According to Justice Minister Nestor Martinez, the main Colombian recommendation for the meeting, which was convened by U.S. President Bill Clinton for December, establishes controls for the so-called "fiscal havens," in which criminals find no limits for their illegal operations.

Martinez said the heads of state attending the summit could commit, if this idea is welcomed, to preventing banks in their countries from opening branches in the "fiscal havens" and to laying the first foundations of what would be the Hemispheric Convention against Money Laundering and the Transfer of Illegal Assets.

The drug cartels operating in Colombia bring into the country's financial system between $1 billion and $4 billion each year according to certain economic studies. This capital, following several transactions abroad, is "legalized" primarily through such sectors as construction and the commercialization of vehicles.

Many experts on the subject who attended an international drug trafficking conference in Santiago de Chile last June believe the drug organizations bring approximately $100 billion into the world's financial system each year from the $400 billion they earn from the illegal business.

Martinez added drug traffickers are also "laundering" their money through contraband, a reason why certain productive sectors are facing a difficult economic situation, in addition to the bank operations.

"It is necessary to agree on minimum rules for international trade so that the producers of goods who might be serving as instruments to launder illegal monies could be able to control their exports or at least to establish systems to identify the client or their marketing networks," Martinez said.

Samper will categorically propose to his colleagues during the Miami Summit, according to Martinez, that "it is necessary that the mechanisms for money laundering be examined and that all of the colleagues, with no exception, take preventive measures."

Ministry Sources on Miami Summit Issues

PA0611162294 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1532 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 5 Nov (DPA)—The main issues Colombia will present at the Summit of the Americas in Miami in December will be the need for greater social development programs and the need to halt drug money laundering, Colombian Foreign Ministry sources stated today.

Diego Cardona, deputy foreign minister for America, said the agenda President Ernesto Samper will take to the United States will be decided in full by 20 November. Samper has already confirmed his participation in the summit, which has been convened by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"Social development, education for human rights, and the promotion of democracy are vital issues Colombia will present at the meeting," Cardona said. He also gave prominence to the topic of drug trafficking and money laundering.

Regarding the last topic, Justice Minister Nestor Martinez said American society and the world in general must become aware of the seriousness of money laundering, not only due to the harm the drug problem causes but due to the deterioration of the economies of the countries affected by this problem.

That reason is why, Martinez said, Colombia will insist in Miami on the need to create mechanisms to halt the activities. He added these mechanisms must be coordinated by all the nations involved in the struggle against the drug mafias.

Regarding social investment, President Samper will present details of his domestic program dubbed "social

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leap," through which projects to benefit the poorest communities will be increased.

"Latin America must review its social support programs. It is time to invest in human beings, the family, and especially the neediest classes," Samper has said repeatedly.

Deputy Foreign Minister Cardona said Colombia committed itself, along with Venezuela, Chile, and Uruguay, to support proposals dealing with corruption, human rights, science, and technology.

He also stressed the government's interest in establishing a permanent dialogue with the business sector so that certain strategic projects will serve as support for private sector tasks.

In this sense, he said, Colombia has followed with attention the negotiation mechanisms used by Mexico to join NAFTA and to involve the private sector in the process.

Ecuador

Industry Minister on Joining GATT 'Before End of Year'

PA0611193794 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2302 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 5 Nov (DPA)—Ecuador, the only South American country that has not joined GATT yet, could join before the end of the year if it is able to overcome certain "difficulties" that have emerged in the negotiations over restrictions on agricultural products.

"Everything will be ready in Geneva on 15 November," Jose Vicente Maldonado, industry, commerce, and integration minister, said today when announcing the conclusion of the negotiation with the GATT working group, "but certain difficulties remain."

The difficulties concern the demands made by various countries for the complete opening of markets for agricultural products to which Quito is partially opposed, because it objects to the European Union restrictions on bananas, a fruit of which Ecuador is the leading exporter in the world.

Among the countries demanding the opening of the Ecuadoran market as a previous requirement for its admission into GATT, the minister mentioned the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the 12 EU countries.

"The problem will be resolved without major difficulties," the minister said, adding he is confident Ecuador will join GATT "before the end of the year."

Ecuadoran demands against European banana restrictions have been handled through third countries, particularly Guatemala, because it does not belong to GATT.

Legislative Panel, Government Agree on Budget

PA0411202594 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Nov 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After one month of negotiations, the Legislative Budgetary Commission and government representatives have reached an agreement on the 1995 budget. The proposed budget will be submitted to review and will be approved in sections, beginning on Tuesday. Finance and Public Credit Minister Modesto Correa, during the meeting in which the agreement was reached, denied the 1995 budget blueprint proposes a 31 percent increase in the price of fuel.

Paraguay

Brazilian President-Elect Cardoso Arrives, Meets Wasmosy

PY0511012694 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2250 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon arriving in Asuncion, Brazilian President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso went to the presidential residence, where he met for a few minutes with President Juan Carlos Wasmosy.

President Wasmosy met with Cardoso, who was recently elected president of the Federative Republic of Brazil, at the Mburuvicha presidential residence. The foreign ministers of the two countries also attended the meeting.

The meeting between Cardoso and Wasmosy did not last more than 10 minutes. After seeing off Dr. Cardoso, President Wasmosy gave assurances that the renegotiation of the Itaipu treaty—specifically dealing with Annex A—will be on the agenda.

The president said that this will be done if necessary.

[Begin recording] [Wasmosy] Mercosur [Common Market of the South] is a major issue, like Itaipu, the electric power network interconnection, Paraguay-Brazil relations, and, in a word, everything dealing with relations between the two countries.

[Unidentified reporter] In the case of renegotiation of the Itaipu treaty, will it deal with Annex A?

[Wasmosy] I cannot anticipate anything, because it might even be unnecessary. Depending on conversations, the solutions found through dialogue are often better than those based on arguments.

[Reporter] Will there be a joint declaration?

[Wasmosy] It would be improper, because he is not yet the president.

[Reporter] Mr. President, would you sponsor a renegotiation, especially concerning Annex A?

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[Wasmosy] If it is necessary, why shouldn't I? You know very well that....

[Foreign Minister Luis Maria Ramirez Boettner, interrupting] Annex A? Of course—it is scheduled.

[Wasmosy] Of course. We have advocated it. There is another point that you should bear in mind. Treaties must be respected, but this does not mean that they should remain totally unchanged throughout time. Treaties may be adapted to needs.

[Reporter] You say a renegotiation will be sought if necessary. Don't you think it is necessary now?

[Wasmosy] I would first like to improve Annex A and then deal with the rest.

[Reporter] And what about the issue of rotation of representatives in leading posts within the Itaipu organization?

[Wasmosy] All that is part of the negotiation. [end recording]

Fernando Henrique Cardoso then went to Congress, where he met with the presidents of both chambers, the chairmen of the foreign affairs committees of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, party bloc leaders, and presidents of the five main political parties.

Our country is the last leg of Brazilian President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso's tour of Mercosur countries.

Even though it is an informal visit, major bilateral issues are expected to be addressed during the visit.

Cardoso Interviewed on Domestic Issues, Mercosur

PY0511024094 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2306 GMT 4 Nov 94

["Exclusive" interview with Brazilian President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso by Benjamin Fernandez Bogado at the Brazilian ambassador's residence in Asuncion—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Fernandez] Senator Cardoso, with respect to the integration you worked so hard for, we are experiencing a confusing moment regarding the issue. How firmly are we really moving toward the 1995 integration?

[Cardoso] I have a lot of trust in integration. I think we are doing very well. I came from Argentina, where I talked with President Carlos Menem, Minister Guido Di Tella, and Minister Domingo Cavallo. I also talked with Uruguay's President Luis Alberto Lacalle and the Uruguayan foreign and finance ministers. I am convinced that our integration will be a reality. Now I will talk with President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, with whom I have very friendly relations. We have already talked briefly. But we will talk a bit more later and I think everything will be fine. Our integration will benefit all of us. We must also consider local special situations, for instance, specific rights. Some industries still require a tariff protection. We must adjust to the real situation. The decision to have a common customs system, a common foreign tariff, is very important. That will give us a lot of strength in our negotiations with NAFTA in the future, or in our negotiations with the EU now, right? The union broadens our space for negotiations. Besides, integration has a political meaning. We are sovereign countries which have decided to get together, knowing that our peoples are friendly neighbors.

[Fernandez] Senator, some people have doubts about integration. They say this is a project that includes countries with different economies, different development, and even antagonistic economic relations. Is Brazil ready to become Mercosur's [Common Market of the South] locomotive?

[Cardoso] Brazil does not want to become a locomotive. Brazil wants to help those ready to join the Mercosur and also needs other countries' help. Brazil has a great market. The truth is that if there is a country that can have fears, it is Brazil, because ours is the largest market. Perhaps our industrial development is stronger than other countries, but we are ready to integrate with our partners. We are willing to consider a reduction of our activities in specific areas because we can work together in entire productive lines. But as I said before, integration is greater than defining who will be the market's motor. All countries will profit. Integration is not a zero-sum game. It is not a game where one wins and the other loses. We will all benefit. I think we are ready for that. The greatest difficulty was Brazil's integration with Argentina, not with Paraguay or Uruguay. And we are doing very well in that aspect. Our trade with Argentina has increased from $3 billion to $9 billion in just three years. This is a very strong change. Brazil, seeking to balance its trade accounts, began to purchase Argentine oil. We are also importing industrial products from Argentina, something we did not do before, and vice versa. Integration has been very good for both sides.

[Fernandez] Itaipu is a key element in Paraguayan relations with Brazil. Some people say that Paraguay has been the great loser in the negotiations and the treaty. People here say we must renegotiate the treaty, particularly Annex A. Is Itaipu on your presidential agenda? Or do you think Itaipu is all right the way it is now?

[Cardoso] Brazil is ready to discuss Annex A. We are waiting for Paraguay to send its negotiators. We are ready to reconsider any important aspect. Now, I think we must have a historic and objective vision of Itaipu. It was not something done to hurt any country, right? On the contrary. Itaipu revitalized the Paraguayan economy and made possible the continuity of Brazilian industrialization. It was positive for both countries. We are ready to discuss Annex A. Brazil will always be open, with a brotherly spirit, to negotiate with its neighbors, particularly with Paraguay. I am sure Itaipu will be a bridge and not an abyss.

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[Fernandez] When you say Brazil is willing to discuss Annex A, is it because you have information about what it is all about, what is involved, or do you use the phrase only because it sounds good politically?

[Cardoso] Do not forget that I have served as finance and as foreign minister. We are even willing to discuss the issue of the binational entity's administration. No, I am not saying it just to be nice or kind. It is something well-informed people in Brazil believe to be possible.

[Fernandez] We are moving toward integrated economies, toward the creation of large trading blocs that will replace, according to some people, the concept of the nation-state. Do you think NAFTA and Mercosur are great Western projects ready to face other markets such as the Asian market and that we might have to confront them eventually in the economic and political arena?

[Cardoso] I am not sure the nation-state will have a small role. I think integration is not done to reduce national identities. We must rediscuss our identities in a new context. Nations will be the same, states will express the interests of each country's citizens. All this must now occur at a different level, knowing that we must deal with trading blocs. In the past we were very much concerned about Europe, the European Market, the European fortress. But now Europe is getting ready to talk with the Mercosur. Mercosur will allow us to start very frank discussions with the Europeans. Of course we want to discuss agricultural issues, not only other things. The same is true of NAFTA. So far NAFTA is a Canadian, American, and Mexican project. It will be so for some time. But we are already talking with them in the framework of what we call four plus one, that is, Mercosur and NAFTA. We can never forget that the Orient, Japan, China, and the so-called Asian tigers have a very strong presence in the international market today; this will continue. It is not a matter of antagonistic blocs, but blocs that will complement each other. All that requires a lot of political engineering, a lot of patience, to negotiate. It also means that we must work for our national interests. Brazil listens with a lot of care when Paraguay talks about national interests. The same thing should happen when Brazilians talk about our own interests.

[Fernandez] Soon you will be Brazil's president. There is a lot of talk about corruption in democracy. Some people say corruption is democracy's biggest enemy. How should we face this disease that is much more visible in a democracy than in a dictatorship?

[Cardoso] You describe it well. It is more visible but not necessarily bigger in a democracy. Dictatorships usually hide what happens. In the Brazilian case, for instance, the corruption networks reported in Congress, after slow and painful discussions, resulted in the impeachment of the president and the expulsion of various deputies. Corrupt officials who were not expelled when they should have been will be punished by voters and they will not be reelected. Why? Because the country is no longer willing to tolerate corruption. The government of Itamar Franco—a serious and honest man—has ended all that—at the state level, that is. The support the government could have given to corruption networks has ended. We can talk about individual cases. Well, this is a disease affecting all of humanity, and we must fight it. I think when democracy and criticism get tough, things change, as happened in Brazil. Corruption is no longer an obsessive concern for state officials. The fight against corruption is advancing well in Brazil.

[Fernandez] For somebody like me who has read your books, Mr. Cardoso, and now is listening to the economic theories of a former professor, what major change has taken place in the mind of a man who believed in the theory of dependency, who held totally different views from the ones he is proposing now? Who changed—the world or Cardoso?

[Cardoso] Both, but not in the sense you believe. I think the things I wrote about are still valid. I described a situation and said there were forces causing changes. I have always been concerned about changes, about new developments. The thing is that there are those who are anachronistic, those who, despite the fact that the world is different, continue to analyze it in the same way, as if it had not changed at all. Herein lies the difference between social and natural sciences. In the latter, laws are unchangeable, whereas in social sciences they are not; cultural and historic circumstances change. The world has changed. If I were to say at present the same things I said or wrote about 30 years ago, I would be overlooking the huge changes that have taken place in the world in the meantime. This does not mean that now I have changed my stance or that I contradict myself and say that what I wrote then was wrong, because I was not. I continue to believe that there are many things that ought to be changed in my country and elsewhere. We need to effect social reforms, try to achieve greater equality by taking into account the new world order, but domestic interests still exist.

[Fernandez] What does change mean for Senator Cardoso?

[Cardoso] Well, it depends on what sector....

[Unidentified speaker, indistinct]

[Cardoso] Not only that, efficiency of course, competitiveness, quality—they all pertain to changes in the economic sphere and they are already under way in Brazil, and I think that the same holds true for this country. And yet, I think there is more than that. In Brazil there has been a change in values; democracy is at present a value in Brazil, and this is a very significant change. Another change is that old patronage practices are no longer accepted, and still another is that citizens strive for greater social equality. As I always say, Brazil is no longer a developing country; it is an industrial country, but it lacks equality. Still it is much better to be an industrial country with inequality than an underdeveloped country because in the latter inequality cannot

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be overcome. In our case, however, we can find a solution. Therefore, the change here will entail trying to achieve a more egalitarian society.

[Fernandez] Two last questions, and I would like you to respond to them, and define them. First, drug trafficking and how to combat it.

[Cardoso] Well, there are any number of ways to do so. I think that we cannot disregard the fact that a way to combat drug trafficking is control, border controls, a more efficient police. Brazil is neither a drug-producing country nor a major consumer. It is a transit country. It goes without saying that unless drug trafficking is routed in producing and consumer countries, transit countries will continue to exist. Hence, we have to defend ourselves, which may also entail—and I have no doubt whatsoever about it—a repressive action. With regard to drug use, that is a totally different thing. We have to combat not only abject poverty—those who take drugs are not necessarily those who are marginalized, but quite the opposite—but also seek to have a society that is not so overwhelming, so oppressive, as ours. Drug addiction, the generation of drugs, is the expression of a major existential crisis due to the anguish experienced in the contemporary world. The solution to this problem will not only require a political decision, but a cultural one—something that goes beyond the action of governments, and that has to do with the entire society.

[Fernandez] My last question is about privatization. Is it an alternative to attract financial resources and to provide better services to citizens with less intervention by the state? Is it as simple as that?

[Cardoso] No, it is not as simple as that. The state will continue to play an important and dynamic role in certain areas. The problem is that citizens are not longer willing to pay more taxes so that the government may collect the necessary revenues to carry out major undertakings. Therefore, if the country needs investments but the state lacks the necessary financial resources, it has to look for them in other countries or at the domestic level from private citizens. This does not mean that the state does not have to play an important role in monitoring how these services are rendered because it always has to take into account the country's overall interest. This is why the market cannot replace the state. We have to develop a new concept about the state and the market with a view to achieving equality, since citizens are increasingly demanding from the state better health care, housing, and education and at the same time they want the state to prevent the abuse of economic power.

[Fernandez] Do you have any special item on the agenda for your meeting with President Wasmosy?

[Cardoso] No, I am simply visiting him as a friend before taking office as president of Brazil. Nevertheless, if I traveled to Buenos Aires, Montevideo, and here, it is because I think that these countries are of paramount importance for Brazilian foreign relations because of the Mercosur, and Brazil intends first and foremost to increase closer relations with them and then try to attract other countries. I like Chile a lot. I lived there for many years and it is a country that is very close to my heart. Bolivia is also a neighboring country, and there are others.

[Fernandez] Thank you very much for this interview.

[Cardoso] Thank you.

Peru

Counterterrorism Directorate Confirms Red Path Dismantling

PA0511182894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1638 GMT 5 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 5 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The National Counterterrorism Directorate (DINCOTE) confirmed today the dismantling of the extremist group "Red Path," following the capture of 16 of its members in several operations.

DINCOTE sources consulted by NOTIMEX stated the "Red Path" had no ties with the Shining Path or the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, which marked its 10th anniversary yesterday.

DINCOTE reported these people are former members of the political group the National Union of the Revolutionary Left (UNIR). They split from the group in 1987 alleging discrepancies.

A high-ranking police chief said the rebels were able to join efforts in 1990 and formed the group "Red Path," which is a organization intent on taking power inspired by the armed conflict which followed the 1992 fall of Abimael Guzman, leader of the Shining Path.

DINCOTE also reported terrorists Juan Esteban Martinez Perez, alias "Jairo" (40), Red Path leader, and 15 of his followers were arrested in Lima during Operation "Purpurina 94."

Sources aware of the rebels' doings have said the dismantled terrorist organization "Red Path" was going to hold its third assembly this month, followed by increased armed actions through dynamite attacks and murders.

DINCOTE stated today: "The capture of the 16 Red Path members has not only prevented another useless shedding of innocent blood and the destruction of public and private institutions."

The group's center of operations was located at 543 Jiron Montevideo, downtown Lima, where the Armed Forces have been enforcing security measures for several months.

Several high-powered weapons categorized as assault weapons, computer equipment, propaganda, subversive manuscripts, and financial statements of the terrorist organization were seized during the police operations.

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The "Red Path" had perpetrated a number of attacks in the last few days. The rebels called these forms of crimes against the property of several Peruvians a "confiscation," but the Peruvian police have said these were common armed assaults.

"It is evident the objective of the 'Red Path' was to carry out organized crimes and assaults for its own sake more than taking power, because they lack an ideological or political cause," the police concluded in their report.

Meanwhile, clashes were reported in the last few hours in the southern region of Inca, leaving a policemen dead and seven Shining Path subversives arrested.

The armed clashes took place during a police operation headed by Lieutenant Marco Antonio Marin Quispe (rest in peace) and were carried out to capture Shining Path members in Piscu Province, 325 km south of Lima.

President Alberto Fujimori instructed the Armed Forces on 1 November to eradicate the guerrilla centers and to dismantle the group the Shining Path, headed by Oscar Ramirez Durand, alias "Feliciano," who is reportedly hidden along with a group of followers in the valley of Ene.

The Repentance Law, which was approved in May 1992, expired on 1 November. The law was approved within the antiterrorist struggle, a legal mechanism that has played an important role in the dismantling of the armed groups, which left 27,000 people dead in the last 14 years.

Perez de Cuellar Threatens To Withdraw Candidacy

PY0511032294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1807 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 4 Nov (EFE)—Political observers today noted that former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar may withdraw his presidential candidacy out of fear of a possible fraud in the campaign for the Peruvian presidential elections, scheduled to be held on 9 April 1995.

After meeting with National Election Board (JNE) Chairman Ricardo Nugent, Perez de Cuellar requested the "immediate" presence in the country of international observers to safeguard the current election process. He alleged that "fraud does not necessarily occur only during the vote counting process, but also during the election campaign."

The presidential candidate for the Union for Peru Movement said that the fact that his most serious contender, President Alberto Fujimori, who is seeking reelection, may commit some excesses by using to his own advantage the benefits of power "constitutes in itself a form a fraud."

He explained that it is unfair "to the other candidates who are not in power" for a normal government undertaking, such as a school construction project, "to be exploited as an electoral advantage."

After this meeting, Perez de Cuellar also said that it would be convenient for the JNE to urgently issue a bill, which is already under discussion, that will define the duties of a president in office who is seeking reelection.

Perez de Cuellar also said that he has requested a meeting with General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Command and Army commander, to discuss election issues, particularly the electoral registration cards issued to the military for security reasons.

Moreover, the JNE has ordered that the electoral registration cards granted to the military be eliminated from the voters' list, but it is not known how many of them were issued. The military and the police are not allowed to vote in Peru.

The suspension of Perez de Cuellar's election campaign in Junin Department and the rumors about the withdrawal of his candidacy out of fear of alleged electoral fraud that are circulating in Lima have compelled legislator Rafael Rey [from the Renewal Party] to say that his alleged withdrawal is not desirable.

Rey, who rejected the possibility of an electoral fraud, said: "His presence is necessary to reassert democracy, and particularly, to improve our image."

An opinion column published in today's issue of the newspaper EXPRESO states that "it would be very serious" if Perez de Cuellar withdraws his candidacy "because it would cause serious problems to the future government of Peru."

The newspaper adds: "The international impact of the charges made by the former UN secretary general would leave institutional wounds that would be too hard to overcome."

In addition, the opinion polls published today show that President Fujimori is again in the lead in terms of voter preference.

According to the "Datum" private polling company, President Fujimori has 47.6 percent of the voters' preference, followed by Perez de Cuellar, who has 20.5 percent, and by economist Alejandro Toledo, who has 9.6 percent.

These percentages at the national level show that those political party candidates with less than 3 pecent are distancing themselves from the first three candidates.

Among those lagging far behind are the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], the Popular Christian Party [PPC], the United Left [IU], and Lima Mayor Ricardo Belmont [Obras Civic Movement].

Uruguay

Presidential Candidate Pereyra Explains Stands

PY0411110594 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 29 Oct 94 p 10

[Report on interview with Carlos Julio Pereyra, one of the National Party presidential candidates, during Teledoce Televisora Color's program "Live and Direct," conducted by Neber Araujo, on 28 October]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Senator Julio Pereyra has said the worst thing that can happen to democracy is that people realize problems are not resolved and start blaming the government and the legislative branch for their lack of efficiency. This will lead to a confidence crisis that might directly affect the democratic system, Pereyra added.

Pereyra said the proposal to conclude an agreement prior to the 27 November election to assure governability is not based on the sharing of positions, because it would be unworthy. The idea is to reach an agreement on general policy on issues that are at the top of the list of concerns of all candidates and all groups. Among the issues on which there is agreement, Pereyra mentioned state reform, joining the Mercosur [Common Market of the South], the creation of jobs for young people, decentralization, and social policies.

Pereyra said: "We do not attempt to approve laws before the election, but to draw guidelines and clear bases to be able to face the great issues and find solutions later on."

Araujo told him that in view of what happened in the past years, he did not believe there could be an agreement to reform the state. "I do not believe you," Araujo said.

"What I propose is not a mere declaration," Senator Pereyra answered. "The dimensions of the state must be revised, but not only through privatizations. There must be saving in some public areas like the diplomatic service, which cannot fulfill specific tasks such as the promotion of Uruguayan exports." Pereyra added: "We want the document that we will attempt to have all candidates sign before the election to establish general guidelines for action. This is necessary because citizens are showing signs of mistrusting politicians. We want to guarantee the country's governability so that citizens can have trust and confidence in the government that might ultimately be elected. It is a way to encourage and cheer people's civic spirit, which is somewhat depressed. The agreement we proposed has content. There will be governability, which is essential for democracy, because we will agree on general guidelines for action. This is not a baseless proposal or the product of a lyrical mind." [passage omitted]

Araujo said candidates who support current government economic policies (Alberto Volonte and Juan Andres Ramirez) are in the first places in the polls, while candidates who gave assurances of governability but criticized government economic policies, such as those supported by the National Rocha Movement and the other groups that are part of the Wilsonist Current [Pereyra's electoral base], appear in lower places. It seems that they will not get any electoral profit from their position.

Senator Pereyra said he was annoyed by the word dividend because during the past few years of the National Party administration his group did not act with a current account in its pocket, but by maintaining their loyal opposition. "We did not support or reject a measure or vote for or oppose a bill thinking that by acting one way or another we were going to get more votes," Pereyra said. We are satisfied because we fulfilled our duty to the country.

It is immoral to act by thinking of the votes we might harvest with each measure or bill." [no beginning quotation mark as published]

Pereyra stressed that his opposition to Luis Alberto Lacalle's economic policies was due to the dogmatism and coldness of those policies. "I am not going to say that those who imposed that policy were mean," Pereyra said. "But I think they went too far." The senator said what is essential is to support the national productive apparatus, not emphasize the financial sector. Pereyra said an example of this type of emphasis was seen during the period Ramon Diaz was president of the Bank of Uruguay, which acted in support of development in productive areas.

He recalled that former Economy and Finance Minister Ricardo Zervino also implemented a cold and dogmatic policy during Julio Maria Sanguinetti's administration. That policy was also rejected by the National Rocha Movement, Pereyra emphasized.

National Shame

Senator Pereyra said he was against the plebiscite to increase appropriations for education ("it is an example of direct democracy, which is a farce. Besides, you cannot put the budget in the Constitution"). Pereyra categorically said: I am scared of the request to constitutionally set 27 percent for education.

I would vote for a 27 percent or a 30 percent. We must take into account that the National Party administration appropriated that percentage for education and nothing happened; we did not have a catastrophe in the country.

He affirmed his opposition to the plebiscite as a mechanism, although he added that there is no doubt about the need to increase the appropriations for education. He said education was the key to the country's future in a world where knowledge is the most valuable asset because it paves the way for new technologies that improve people's standard of living. [passage omitted]

Pereyra said the funds for education can come from various sources, especially through changes in the tax structure to permit taxes on people's incomes. The entire tax burden should not fall on those who have less.

Pereyra also said the structure of public spending must be corrected.

"Resources must be obtained in any way and there must be no doubts about the mechanism used to obtain them," Pereyra said.

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Minister Decries Plebiscite on Education Budget

PY0411110394 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 30 Oct 94 p 17

[Article by correspondent Alexis Cadimar; quotation marks as published]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Punta del Este — Education Minister Antonio Mercader formulated a call for reflection regarding the plebiscite to decide whether 27 percent of the budget will be used for the educational sector.

Mercader indicated that this percentage amounts to more than $400 million, "but no one has explained how it is going to be financed, and it is an initiative that has no foundation."

He added that "politics and the labor sector, which are promoting it, are the only foundation that it has because they have a dozen leaders of the educational sector on the Broad Front's lists; in other words, this is a political project, and it has a political name."

In this respect, he maintained that if the 27 percent is approved, it will "generate a very great problem in the future because by making it a constitutional figure, it can cause other sectors to do the same. It is being said that the public health sector is going to ask for 21 percent."

Mercader said that "this rain of millions, just over $400 million, will come from the pockets of the taxpayers, because if you divide this figure by 3 million, it would cost each of us $130 a year. And, in this case it will be the pensioners who will take the brunt because today the central government's major outlay is the paying of the indexation that allows the wages of the pensioners to remain adjusted. "And, other sectors of public employees are going to get less...."

He explained that he is against the 27 percent for the educational sector, indicating that "we believe it is not the right procedure. We want to give larger sums to the educational sector and this government has given them to this area by increasing the national budget when we became the government in 1990, when 14 percent was given to education, while it now receives 19 percent. In other words, for every 100 pesos the government spends, 19 are spent on education. [passage omitted]

Polls Show Voter Preference on Plebiscite, Elections

PY0411203294

[FBIS Translated Editorial Report] Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish on 29 October carries, on page 8, two unattributed articles on the preferences of voters regarding the plebiscite on the education budget and on the social security reform, as well as on the presidential candidates.

The first 300-word article reports on a nationwide poll by Equipos Consultores during "the second half of October" which shows that 45 percent of those polled favor allocating 27 percent of the national budget to education, while 25 percent are against it. It also states that 32 percent are in favor of reforming the social security system, while less than 20 percent are against it; but 53 percent are undecided.

The second 200-word article reports on a poll by the Factum company on 24 October on the voters preference for presidential elections. This shows the Progressive Encounter alliance, whose candidate is Tabare Vazquez, continues to lead the polls with 39.4 percent. Next comes the Colorado Party with 22.9 percent, then the National Party with 18.4 percent, and then the new New Sector coalition with 6.9 percent, while 10 percent of the people say they are undecided. As for the internal party struggles, there is a tie within the National Party between Juan Andres Ramirez and Alberto Volonte who both have 40 percent of the voters preference, while Carlos Julio Pereyra has 8 percent and the undecided voters amount to 12 percent. In the Colorado Party, Julio Sanguinetti heads with 64 percent, followed by Jorge Batlle with 18 percent, and Jorge Pacheco with 7 percent.

Venezuela

Colombian Guerrillas Stage Another Border Attack

PA0711043794 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Nov 94

[From "Union Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colombian guerrillas staged another attack Saturday night on the Rafael Urdaneta Military Unit on the outskirts of Puerto Ayacucho on the road to Caicara del Orinoco. One soldier was injured, and a civilian driving by was shot in his right lung. So far now no one has been killed.

According to a military intelligence report, the Defense Ministry is responsible for the clashes at the Colombian-Venezuelan border due its refusal to declare a state of emergency along the country's southern border with Colombia.

Colombian guerrillas have maintained control of the area by waging an undeclared war that has cost the lives of more than 100 Venezuelan soldiers. According to a report released by the national media, while the National Liberation Army of Colombia uses high-technology military equipment and has control over the Arauca territory, Venezuelan troops are mostly rookie officers who have little knowledge of antiguerrilla warfare and few technical resources.

Minister Announces Battalion on Colombian Border

PA0611195894 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Nov 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Rafael Angel Montero Revette has announced a special Army operations battalion will reinforce surveillance along the border with Colombia, effective 7 November. The government's decision was adopted following the attacks on Venezuelan posts that resulted in the deaths of 20 soldiers.

Montero Revette has said the Colombian Armed Forces are cooperating in the investigation into the alleged guerrilla attacks. Colombian forces have arrested four Colombians who are suspected of participating in the offensive, which occurred at Apure.

Moreover, Pompeyo Marquez, chairman of the National Border Council, has said the Colombian state's absence from the border zones has allowed an increase in guerrilla actions. Marquez has clearly said our government is striving to develop the border zones, and this move has been countered by irregular activities. Pompeyo Marquez has said drug trafficking is carried out along the entire border, which represents a clear danger to the country.

Meanwhile, Chamber of Deputies President Carmelo Lauria believes roads should be paved to guarantee security in the border zone. It would also be necessary to add a fleet of helicopters for the protection of the national border. Lauria visited at San Cristobal Hospital the soldiers who were injured in clashes with Colombian guerrilla groups. The president of the chamber of deputies has asked that these young men be publicly recognized for showing the guerrilla members what they would receive in their ambushes.

In addition, Rear Admiral Ramiro Perez Luciani, president of the Border Studies Committee, has accused the Colombian Government of inciting guerrilla groups to exercise its control at the Venezuelan border. Ramiro Perez Luciani added one cannot seek integration with a country that assassinates neighboring soldiers and kidnaps cattlemen. Perez Luciani has condemned the massacre of the Venezuelan soldiers and supported the legislative proposal to close the border.

Student Protests Reported in Tachira, Aragua, Trujillo

PA0311183294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1624 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Caracas, 3 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Local media today reported that several disturbances were staged yesterday in Tachira, Aragua, and Trujillo States, where three vehicles were burned and classes were suspended.

According to Caracas media reports, dozens of students in San Cristobal, the capital of Tachira State, burned three trucks during protests that lasted throughout the day. Students in this city, located in southwestern Venezuela, were protesting at the Tachira State National University president's office after the university attempted to charge a fee for the use of vehicles that belong to this education center. Police officers quelled the protests, and there is no information on whether students were injured or arrested in this city, which is located near the Colombian border.

In Macaray, Aragua State, high school students took to the streets and interrupted traffic for two hours in Villa de Curra. They later went to the downtown area of Zamora Municipality, where they threw rocks at a police garrison. Following a pitched battle to protest poor conditions at the schools and police repression, 10 students were detained and later turned over to their parents.

In Valera, the capital of Trujillo State, Education Ministry and university authorities suspended classes because of repeated disturbances over the past few days. Valera students staged a number of demonstrations to protest a lack of compliance by bus drivers and the authorities' reluctance to enforce the so-called "preferential fare" under which students pay only half the normal fare. The student protests in Valera took place while a labor conflict is keeping university workers out of the workplace. The labor dispute has left university installations without maintenance services and is hindering the collection of student fares.

University Students Protest in Caracas

PA0311182994 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1633 GMT 3 Nov 94

[From the "The News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] University students and the faculty of Pedagogico Ciso Martinez de Mirando are still on the warpath. Today they forcefully occupied an empty building owned by Banco Latino. Professor Luis Miguel Bolivar explained the situation:

[Begin Bolivar recording] The university community of Pedagogico Miranda occupied this empty building by force because for 18 years it has been deceived; several administrations have deceived us, pardon the redundance, with false promises.

We are working out of two rented buildings here in (La Urbina) industrial sector, where classes are held for approximately 4,000 students in overcrowded conditions. The students virtually stand throughout their classes. Nevertheless, the promises remain unfulfilled. No one is resolving the problem at Pedagogico Ciso Martinez.

This building belongs to Banco Latino, which owes Universidad Pedagogica 400 million bolivares. Therefore, we are exercising our right to an exchange; they can pay part of their debt for this building. I appeal to the citizen president of the Republic, who, as we all know, has always been a good teacher and always defended education. He must face the great challenge of resolving the situation at Pedagogico Miranda. [end recording]

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[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1426 GMT on 3 November transmits a related 210-word, Caracas-datelined report on a demonstration staged by students at the Caracas Pedagogical Institute, "to protest the nonrealization of preferential student fares." According to AFP, the demonstration led to a riot and National Guard troops occupied the institute. The day before in Trujillo, 400 km southwest of Caracas, there were "violent student demonstrations to protest public transportation fares," forcing authorities to close several schools."]

200 Companies of Intervened Banks To Be Sold Off

PA0411034994 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Nov 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A total of 200 companies linked to the intervened banks will be sold off shortly. These are companies that belong to the financial groups Maracaibo, Barinas, Bancor, Amazonas La Guaira, Metropolitano, Fiveca, and Construccion.

This week and next, approximately 200 companies will be intervened. These belonged to the banks to be liquidated and had been given by these as guarantees to FOGADE [Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund].

The decision on the first 20 companies belonging to the Maracaibo, Bancor, and Barinas banks will be made by the Emergency Financial Board. A large sum will be guaranteed to FOGADE as a result of the interventions into these companies that had been transferred in subsidy contracts.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Each of the intervened financial groups operated through a large network of companies, many of these are just paper companies. These companies had [words indistinct] assets. These assets were given as guarantees to FOGADE at the time the subsidies were granted. I believe that Aguirre [FOGADE president] enforced extreme measures and together with the guarantees, she was able to transfer these assets. Therefore, FOGADE not only has guarantees but it has real assets that were transferred. What was lacking was the intervention to wrap up this transfer. [end recording]

With regard to the 60 billion bolivares missing from Banvenes, Hector Turuphial [not further identified] said there is a difference between the amount given by the bank's Intervention Board and that given by the banking superintendency; therefore the amounts will have to be verified.

Foreign Debt Repayment Plan Outlined

PA0311163894 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 31 Oct 94 p 2-1

[FBIS Translated Text] The government expects to make foreign debt payments of $1.102 billion (77.104 billion bolivares) in 1994. According to ministers of the economic cabinet, this sizable sum will include payments to cover obligations with international commercial banks totaling $125.1 million; direct debts of $997.8 million; payments on nonrestructured bonds totaling $426.1 million; and repayments to contractors and suppliers ($151 million), multilateral agencies ($88.6 million), and bilateral agencies ($312.1 million). No outstanding maturity payments for bonds will be included in the 1990 plan.

Figures indicate that foreign debt payments over the next seven years will reach $8.439 billion as follows: $1.014 billion in 1995, $1.202 billion in 1996, $1.292 billion in 1997; $1.801 billion in 1998, $1.6 billion in 1999, $1.419 billion in the year 2000.

These amounts do not include interest payments, which could increase the total by as much as three times, depending on the specific percentage set for each debt.

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